



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

MID-APRIL TEST 2026-27
ENGLISH

Class: XII
Date: 16.04.26
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 two major global conflicts of the twentieth century—World War I (1914–1918) and World War II (1939–1945)—caused unprecedented destruction and significantly reshaped global politics and economies.

World War I resulted in approximately 16–20 million deaths, including nearly 9 million soldiers. European economies suffered severe losses, with industrial production in several regions falling by nearly 30%. The war ended with the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, which required Germany to pay 132 billion gold marks as reparations and accept strict military limitations. Many historians argue that these conditions created economic hardship and political resentment.

To prevent future conflicts, the League of Nations was established in 1920. However, it failed to stop aggressive actions by nations such as Germany, Italy, and Japan during the 1930s.

The devastation of World War II was far greater. Global casualties exceeded 60 million people, and nearly 70% of European industrial infrastructure was damaged or destroyed. The war ended in 1945 after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

After the war, the United Nations was formed in 1945 to maintain peace, while the Marshall Plan provided about \$13 billion to rebuild Western European economies. At the same time, rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union began the Cold War. These events transformed the global political landscape and accelerated decolonization in Asia and Africa.

In the decades that followed, many Asian and African nations gained independence from colonial rule. Countries such as India, Indonesia, and Ghana emerged as sovereign states, marking the beginning of a new international order. The post-war period also saw rapid technological advancements, the rise of international cooperation, and the formation of new political alliances that continue to influence global relations today.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- (i). According to the passage, approximately how many people died in World War I?
- (ii). Which initiative was introduced after World War II to rebuild Western European economies?

- A. The Treaty of Versailles
- B. The Marshall Plan
- C. The League of Nations
- D. The Cold War

(iii). Choose the word from the passage that means “intense rivalry or competition between nations.”

- A. Infrastructure
- B. Rivalry
- C. Reparations
- D. Decolonization

(iv). Complete the analogy based on the passage:

League of Nations: World War I :: United Nations : _____

(v). Identify the correct combination from the information given in the passage.

- 1. Treaty of Versailles – Imposed reparations on Germany
- 2. Marshall Plan – Economic reconstruction of Western Europe
- 3. League of Nations – Formed after World War II
- 4. Atomic bombs – Used in Japan in 1945

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

(vi). Why do some historians believe that the Treaty of Versailles indirectly contributed to the outbreak of World War II? (Answer in about 30–40 words.)

(vii). How did the aftermath of the World Wars transform the global political and economic landscape? (Answer in about 40–50 words.)

SECTION B- WRITING (4 marks)

2. You are Ram/Ramani. The Eco Club of your colony, Kailash Colony, Old town, is hosting the annual flower show. As President of the club, draft a notice to be put up on the Resident Welfare Association notice board, inviting residents to contribute personal flower pots for the exhibition. Include necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (14 marks)

3. Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

1x4=4

I heard M. Hamel say to me, “I won’t scold you, little Franz: you must feel bad enough, see how it is ! Everyday we have said to ourselves. Bah! I’ve plenty of time I’ll learn it tomorrow. And now you see where we’ve come out. Ah, that’s the great trouble with Alsace; she puts off learning till tomorrow. Now those fellows out there will have the right to say to you. ‘How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?’ But, you are not the worst, poor little Franz. We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with”.

(i) ‘And now you see where we’ve come out.’ The tone of M. Hamel in the above line is that of :

- (A) kindness
- (B) happiness
- (C) regret
- (D) enthusiasm

(ii) ‘We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.’

Select the option, which conveys the meaning of ‘reproach’ as reflected in the above line.

- (A) The player received a reprimand for breach of rules.
- (B) The students approached the management with a demand for new canteen.
- (c) The clerk received a letter of appreciation for his innovative ideas
- (D) She could not find a way to broach the subject with her boss.

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

‘You must feel bad enough.’ Through these words M. Hamel urges the people

_____.

(iv) Identify the line from the text that reinforces the theme of patriotism in the story.

4. Answer the following two questions in 40 50 words each:

2x2=4

I. What comparisons does Kamala Das make to describe her mother’s face in the poem *My Mother at Sixty-Six*?

II. Why did M. Hamel write “Vive La France!” on the blackboard at the end of the lesson in the story *The Last Lesson*?

III. Why was Charlie fascinated with Galesburg?

5. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 word:

1x6=6

A. What does Sam’s letter reveal about the circumstances of the time? What advice does he give to Charley in the story **The Third Level** by Jack Finney?

OR

B. Describe the poet’s feelings and emotional conflict during the car journey to the airport. How does the poet balance sadness and hope in the poem *My Mother at Sixty-Six*?