



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PRE-BOARD 3 - 2025-26  
ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (101)  
SET - 2

Class: X  
Date: 17.01.26  
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

#### Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Nature's Invisible Economy

Ecosystems—forests, wetlands, coral reefs, grasslands—are not merely scenic backdrops to human civilization. They constitute an intricate web of interactions that deliver indispensable services, often invisible yet vital to survival. These ecosystem services encompass everything from pollination and water purification to climate regulation and flood control. Biodiversity, the staggering variety of life forms inhabiting Earth, underpins the resilience and functionality of these services. Yet humanity's relationship with biodiversity has become paradoxical: we depend on it utterly, yet accelerate its destruction relentlessly.

Ecosystem services are categorized into four types: provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting. Provisioning services supply tangible goods—food, fresh water, timber, medicinal compounds. Regulating services moderate natural phenomena: wetlands absorb floodwaters, forests sequester carbon, bees pollinate crops. Cultural services enrich human experience through recreation, spiritual connection, and aesthetic inspiration. Supporting services, such as soil formation and nutrient cycling, operate behind the scenes, enabling all other categories. The degradation of any service ripples through the entire system, often with unforeseen consequences.

The economic value of these services is staggering, though rarely reflected in conventional financial accounting. A single hectare of wetland can provide water filtration worth thousands of dollars annually—services that would require costly infrastructure if nature were absent. Coral reefs protect coastlines from storm surges, saving billions in potential damage. Yet because these benefits are diffuse and unpriced, they remain undervalued until their loss becomes catastrophic. The collapse of fisheries, desertification of once-fertile land, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters are stark reminders that ecological degradation imposes real, if delayed, costs.

Biodiversity enhances ecosystem resilience, the capacity to withstand and recover from disturbances such as droughts, diseases, or climate shifts. Diverse ecosystems possess redundancy—multiple species performing overlapping roles—which buffers against the loss of any single component. Monocultures, by contrast, are fragile; the Irish Potato Famine tragically illustrated how dependence on a single crop variety

invites disaster. As climate change accelerates, ecosystems rich in biodiversity will prove more adaptable, providing humanity with crucial flexibility in an uncertain future.

Despite growing awareness, biodiversity loss continues at an alarming rate, driven by habitat destruction, pollution, overexploitation, invasive species, and climate change. Reversing this trajectory demands transformative shifts: integrating ecosystem values into economic decision-making, expanding protected areas, restoring degraded habitats, and adopting sustainable consumption patterns. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as payments for ecosystem services, incentivize conservation by compensating landowners for preserving natural capital. Ultimately, safeguarding biodiversity is not an act of charity toward nature—it is an investment in humanity's own survival and prosperity.

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

I. Why does the passage describe humanity's relationship with biodiversity as 'paradoxical'? (Paragraph 1)

- a) Because biodiversity provides services but also creates challenges for development.
- b) Because humans depend entirely on biodiversity yet actively contribute to its destruction.
- c) Because biodiversity is both visible and invisible in its contributions.
- d) Because ecosystems are resilient but fragile at the same time.

II. Complete the following with the correct option from those given in the brackets.

In the line 'operate behind the scenes', the phrase 'behind the scenes' indicates \_\_\_\_ (invisible but essential processes / secondary and less important functions / processes that occur underground). (Paragraph 2)

III. Give two examples of how regulating services moderate natural phenomena, based on Paragraph 2.

Answer in 30-40 words.

**2 marks**

IV. What does the phrase 'rarely reflected in conventional financial accounting' suggest about how ecosystems are valued economically? (Paragraph 3)

Select the correct option to complete the answer.

It suggests that ecosystem services are \_\_\_\_.

- a) too complex to measure accurately in monetary terms.
- b) undervalued because their benefits are not easily priced or included in budgets.
- c) considered more valuable than human-made infrastructure.
- d) only recognized after they are completely destroyed.

V. Complete the following with the appropriate option.

The reference to the Irish Potato Famine brings up the idea of \_\_\_\_\_. (Paragraph 4)

- a) warning against reliance on biodiversity for food security.
- b) demonstrating the vulnerability of ecosystems lacking diversity.
- c) highlighting historical tragedies caused by natural disasters.
- d) explaining how monocultures are economically efficient.

VI. What would be the most suitable title for Paragraph 5?

- a) Innovative Solutions to Preserve Biodiversity
- b) The Urgent Need to Reverse Biodiversity Loss

c) Economic Mechanisms for Conservation Efforts d) Challenges Facing Global Ecosystems Today

VII. Which phrase from Paragraph 3 provides evidence that ecosystem services have tangible economic worth?

VIII. Fill in the blank by choosing the appropriate option from those given in the brackets.

Paragraph 4 includes an \_\_\_\_\_ (analogy / argument / illustration) explaining the importance of biodiversity for ecosystem resilience. **2 marks**

IX. How does the passage suggest that safeguarding biodiversity benefits humanity directly? Answer in 30-40 words. (Paragraph 5) **2 marks**

**2. Read the following.** **10**

**Youth Mental Health Crisis: Rising Awareness, Persistent Barriers**

Adolescent mental health has emerged as a critical global health priority. As awareness of mental health challenges increases among youth, so too do the complexities of ensuring access to care. Recent data from international health organizations reveals a troubling picture of emotional distress alongside encouraging trends in help-seeking behavior.

**Table 1: Global Youth Mental Health Prevalence (Ages 10-19)**

Condition	Percentage Affected	Estimated Number (Millions)
Any mental health condition	14.3%	280-300
Depression	2.3% (avg.)	45-50
Anxiety disorders	4.7% (avg.)	90-100
Behavioral disorders	3.2% (avg.)	60-70
Unmet mental health needs	40%+	110-130

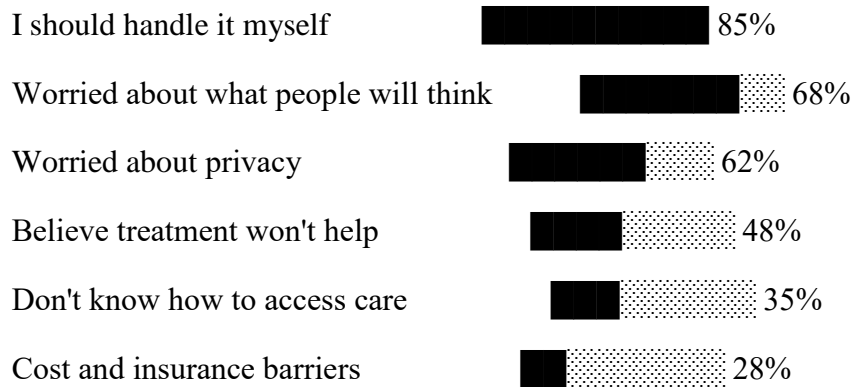
(Source: World Health Organization & CDC, 2023-2024)

**Table 2: Youth Mental Health in the USA (Ages 12-17)**

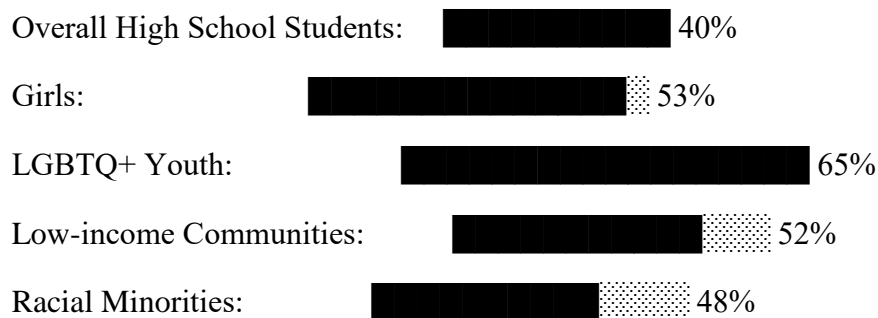
Metric	2021-2022 (%)	2022-2023 (%)	Change (+/-)
Reported depressive symptoms	17%	18%	+1
Reported anxiety symptoms	19%	20%	+1
Persistent sadness/hopelessness	38%	40%	+2
Difficulty accessing mental health care	52%	54%	+2
Received mental health therapy	19%	20%	+1

(Source: National Survey of Children's Health, USA)

**Chart 1: Barriers to Mental Health Care Among Youth**



**Chart 2: Mental Health Concerns by Demographics (USA)**



### Key Findings:

Globally, one in seven adolescents experiences a mental health condition, yet the vast majority remain untreated.

In the USA, nearly 1 in 3 (31%) youth ages 12-17 have a diagnosed mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioural problem.

Depression and anxiety prevalence has shown modest increases year-over-year, suggesting persistent or worsening mental health trends.

A critical discrepancy exists: while 40% of adolescents experiencing depression do not receive treatment, schools report that 53% are seeing increased demand for mental health services.

Girls and LGBTQ+ youth report significantly higher rates of sadness/hopelessness (53% and 65%, respectively) compared to overall youth populations.

The most significant barrier to care is psychological—85% of youth believe they should handle their issues independently, reflecting stigma and self-reliance mind sets.

### Answer the following questions based on your reading of the above information:

I. According to Table 1, what percentage of youth with diagnosed mental health conditions do NOT receive treatment? What does this gap suggest about global mental health infrastructure? 2 marks

II. Complete the following with the correct option.

Based on Table 2, the percentage of U.S. youth reporting anxiety symptoms increased from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023 by \_\_\_\_.

- a) 0.5%      b) 1%      c) 2%      d) 5%

III. State which of the following is True, based on Charts 1 and 2.

- a) The most common reason youth avoid seeking mental health care is financial.  
b) Girls and LGBTQ+ youth experience disproportionately higher rates of emotional distress compared to the general youth population.  
c) Low-income youth have lower rates of sadness compared to overall youth populations.

IV. What does the data in Chart 1 reveal about youth attitudes toward mental health support?

V. Which of the following best explains the increase in "difficulty accessing mental health care" from 52% to 54% even as school-based services expand?

- a) Schools are ineffective at providing mental health services.  
b) Mental health services are becoming more expensive.  
c) Growing awareness of mental health challenges may have increased recognition of unmet needs.  
d) Youth are unwilling to seek help from school-based providers.

VI. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.

The discrepancy between global prevalence data (40%+ unmet needs) and U.S.-specific data (40% of depressed adolescents untreated) suggests \_\_\_\_ (universal trends across all nations / significant variations in access and outcomes across different countries and regions / that developed nations have eliminated mental health access barriers).

VII. Based on Chart 2, which demographic groups are at particularly elevated risk of mental distress and may require targeted mental health interventions?

- a) Boys from affluent communities      b) Girls and LGBTQ+ youth  
c) Racial majority groups      d) Youth in rural areas

VIII. If 20% of adolescents are receiving mental health therapy (Table 2) but 54% report difficulty accessing care (Table 2), what can be inferred about mental health service delivery in the USA? 2 marks

### **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 are Priya Sharma, Class X-B, President of the Environmental Club. Your school has recently installed solar panels on the roof to generate renewable energy. You wish to request the Principal for permission to organize an awareness campaign about the project, inviting students and parents to understand its benefits and sustainability impact.

Write a formal application to the Principal (not more than 50 words) requesting permission to conduct this awareness program in the school auditorium during the lunch recess on a Friday. 3M

4. Your school recently conducted a "Digital Literacy Program" for underprivileged children in a nearby slum community. The program aimed to teach basic computer skills, internet safety, and digital communication tools.

Write a factual description (not more than 100 words) of this community outreach program, outlining:

Its objectives

The methods and training modules used

The tangible outcomes and impact on the children 4M

**5. Attempt any ONE of the following in about 120 words: 7M**

A. Your school cafeteria uses disposable plastic plates, cutlery, and bottles daily, generating tonnes of plastic waste. As a concerned student, you realize the environmental hazard this creates.

As Arjun Menon, 16, Green Avenue, Mumbai, write a letter to the editor of a leading newspaper (not more than 120 words), highlighting:

The problem of single-use plastics in educational institutions

The health and environmental consequences

Recommendations for adopting biodegradable alternatives and institutional policy changes

**OR**

B. Students today spend excessive hours on mobile phones and social media, affecting their academic performance, sleep patterns, and mental well-being. Teachers and parents are increasingly concerned about this trend.

As Isha Kulkarni, 15, Sector 7, Bangalore, write a letter to the editor of a national daily (not more than 120 words), discussing:

The extent and causes of screen addiction among youth

The adverse effects on health, academics, and social relationships

Practical steps for schools, parents, and students to establish healthy digital habits

**6. Attempt any ONE of the following in about 150 words: 8M**

A. You are Vikram Patel, Class X. The school recently launched a confidential counselling cell and peer support program to address student mental health concerns. You want to create awareness about mental wellness.

Write an article for your school e-magazine titled "Mental Wellness Matters: Creating Safe Spaces in Schools," (not more than 150 words) addressing:

Why mental health awareness is crucial for adolescents

Common stressors faced by students

How peer support, counselling, and mindfulness activities help

A call to action for destigmatizing mental health discussions

**OR**

**B.** You are Anaya Desai, Class X. Your school has begun integrating AI-powered learning platforms and personalized tutoring systems. You wish to explore both benefits and challenges.

Write an article for your school magazine titled "AI in the Classroom: Opportunities and Challenges," (not more than 150 words) covering:

How AI personalizes learning and identifies student gaps

Advantages in accessibility and adaptive learning

Challenges such as screen fatigue and over-reliance on technology

Balancing technology with human-centered education

### SECTION C GRAMMAR (10 marks)

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

A. Despite the fact that several proposals (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (has been submitted / have been submitted / had been submitting) to upgrade the school laboratories, little progress (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (is made / has been made / was making) so far, as the final approval (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ (may be delays / may have been delayed / might delay) due to budget revisions.

**8.** The following paragraph has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Identify the error and write its correction against the correct blank number. Remember to underline the correction. (4 × 1 = 4 marks)

	Error	Correction
I have saw him crossing the road.	(a)	
They was expecting a reply soon.	(b)	
The teacher suggested that we are more attentive.	(c)	
He has did his best in the competition.	(d)	

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

**I. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases to create a meaningful sentence. (1 mark)**

improve / framework / a / ensure / learning / to / holistic / must / schools / they

**II. Report the conversation given below**

**(2 marks)**

Riya said to her mentor, "Why are the robotics modules being postponed again?"

The editor said, "What an insightful article you have written!"

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

**10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given.**  
**2 x 4 = 8**

A. "If thou dost bend and pray and fawn for him,  
I spurn thee like a cur out of my way."

i) Identify the speaker of the above extract.

ii) Who was bending, praying and fawning?

iii) In what context have the above words been spoken?

iv) What do these words reveal about the character of the speaker?

**B.** "They will be useful to you, and they can never be to me. But will you do one thing?" "What?"

"What do you see up there?" said Ali, pointing to the sky.

i) Identify the person spoken to.

ii) What does the word 'They' refer to?

iii) Why did Ali say 'They can never be useful to him'?

iv) What opinion do you form of Ali on the basis of the given extract?

**C.** "So, till the judgment that yourself arise,  
You live in this, and dwell in lovers' eyes."

- i. According to the poet, what will last after monuments have decayed?
- ii. Why does the poet refer to "lovers' eyes" as making someone immortal?
- iii. How does this couplet reinforce the enduring strength of poetry?
- iv. What does this imply about the poet's view on the legacy left by art?

**Q.11. Answer any five of the following in about 30-40 words.**

**(2 × 5 = 10 marks)**

i. Mrs. Packletide goes to great lengths to shoot a tiger. What does her obsession with tiger shooting reveal about her character?

ii. In The Dear Departed, why do the children and adults rush to take items from Grandpa's house before his funeral is over?

iii. How does the Ouija board become a tool for mischief in A Shady Plot? What does John's behaviour on the board tell us about him?

iv. Why does Michael in Virtually True find it hard to distinguish between his online games and real life?

v. In Mrs. Packletide's Tiger, how does the tiger escape its hunters despite being trapped? What does this escape symbolize?

vi. What is the main irony in the ending of The Dear Departed?

**Q.12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. 1x8=8**

"Obsession with wealth and status can blind people to truth and goodness." How do the actions of Mrs. Packletide in Mrs. Packletide's Tiger and the family members in The Dear Departed support this statement? Discuss what each character loses or gains through their selfish behaviour. Use textual examples to show how their greed affects others around them.

**OR**

The most dangerous people are those who hide behind false authority." Discuss this statement with reference to the Frog in The Frog and the Nightingale and Cassius in Julius Caesar. How do both manipulate others through deception and flattery? What is the ultimate price of their schemes? Support your answer with textual evidence from both works.

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