



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

POST MID TERM (MS) - 2025-26  
ENGLISH (301)

Class: XI  
Date: 06.01.26  
Admission no:

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

I. A. 1 and 3 only

II. A. Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct

III. Socio-economic issues such as poverty, child labour, lack of awareness, migration and poor infrastructure continue to hinder literacy.

IV. India cannot rely on enrolment figures alone to achieve universal literacy because enrolment does not guarantee learning or retention — the passage emphasizes the need for “quality education through improved curricula, regular assessments, and adequate learning resources” and teacher accountability to ensure real literacy.

## V. Complete the Analogy

Urban literacy : 87.7% :: Rural literacy : 73.5%

VI. C. Adequate school facilities in rural areas — this is the EXCEPT choice because the passage lists inadequate school facilities as a factor widening the urban–rural gap; the other options are given as contributors to the gap.

VII. Slow but uneven development across states. (e.g., Kerala) and youth cohorts have advanced greatly, while other states (e.g., Bihar), rural areas, and girls lag behind.

## SECTION B – WRITING (4 Marks)

Job Application:

Format – 1 mark

Content – 2 marks

Expression – 1 mark

## SECTION C – LITERATURE (14 Marks)

Q3. Read the extracts and answer the multiple choice questions.

(4 × 1 = 4)

I. B

II. C

III. A

IV. A

**Q4. Answer ANY THREE of the following in 30–40 words each:**

**(2x3=6)**

a) Prof. Gaitonde is initially **shocked** and **confused** when he notices the unfamiliar political and historical changes around him. As a **historian**, he becomes intensely **curious** and begins **investigating** the differences, trying to understand how he has entered a **parallel reality**.

b) The father struggles between **love** for his son and the **pain of emotional distance**. He feels **helpless** and **guilty** for not understanding him. Though he longs for **closeness**, he cannot bridge the **communication gap**, which deepens his **sense of loss**.

c) The poem satirises **blind justice** and **irresponsible governance**. The king's **foolishness**, the people's **meaningless rituals**, and the **absurd** way of choosing a ruler expose how societies accept **incompetence** and symbolic authority without questioning **logic** or **accountability**.

d) The poem shows how lack of **communication** widens the **generation gap** between parents and children. **Misunderstandings** create **emotional alienation**, but **reconciliation** is possible if both sides express their **feelings honestly** and try to **rebuild their relationship**.

**Q5. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120–150 words.**

**(1x4=4)**

A) In *Adventure*, Jayant Narlikar blends **science with fiction** to present the idea of **parallel worlds** in a realistic way. He uses the **Catastrophe Theory**, which explains how a small change in initial conditions can produce drastically different outcomes. This scientific principle provides a logical basis for Professor Gaitonde's experience of shifting into an alternate history where the Battle of Panipat had a different result. The narrative becomes believable because the author avoids magical or supernatural elements and relies instead on the **quantum-like possibility of multiple realities**. Gaitonde's curiosity, observations, and rational analysis further strengthen the scientific tone. By connecting the fictional event to actual theories in mathematics and physics, the author ensures that the concept of a parallel world appears **plausible, structured, and intellectually engaging**, rather than imaginary or far-fetched.

**OR**

B) Vikram Seth's *Tale of the Melon City* uses **satire and humour** to expose the absurdity of blindly following traditions. The king's insistence on being called a "**just and placid ruler**," while making ridiculous decisions, mocks rulers who value image over wisdom. The trial of the "guilty" bricklayer, mason, and even the wall shows how **illogical justice systems** can become when people stick to outdated rituals. The climax, where the citizens choose the next ruler according to the "**old custom**," is a sharp criticism of societies that value tradition over practicality. Their choice of a **melon** as king highlights the mindless obedience of people who accept symbolic authority without questioning its relevance. Through humour, exaggeration, and irony, the poem exposes the **folly of blind traditions**, urging readers to question practices that lack logic or purpose.