



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



PRE BOARD 3 - 2025-26

ENGLISH (301)

SET 1 (MS)

Class: XII

Date: 09.01.26

Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs.

Max Marks: 80

Roll no:

SECTION A – READING (22 Marks)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

I. (b) Lack of nutrition literacy

Keywords: changing face, imbalances, poor dietary choices

II. (c) 1, 2, 4

Keywords: wasted, obese, stunted

III. The writer stresses urgency by stating that all forms of malnutrition can lead to life-threatening diseases, non-communicable diseases, and economic burden, and highlights the need for early detection and prevention.

IV. (a) 1-iv, 2-iii, 3-ii, 4-i

V. (a) Under nutrition, micronutrient deficiency and overweight

Keywords: under nutrition, vitamin & mineral deficiency, overweight

VI. A cherubic baby may actually indicate overweight or obesity, caused by excess calorie intake, which can impair health instead of reflecting wellness.

VII. Malnutrition reduces productivity, increases healthcare costs, and creates an economic burden on the nation.

VIII. Providing access to nutritious food, nutrition education, and effective monitoring systems can help prevent and detect malnutrition early.

IX. Nutrition ignorance : Malnourished child

Q2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

I.to highlight the impact of lifestyle choices on health and nutrition.

II. (a) Primary purpose

Keywords: examine, assess

III. They are nutrient-rich and healthy

- They provide a natural alternative to packaged snacks

Keywords: nutritional value, healthy alternative

IV. Sentence 1: Influence

- Sentence 2: Motivation

V. (d)

Keywords: teenager, elderly, young adult

VI. Due to health consciousness, age-related dietary needs, and medical advice.

VII. Tailored interventions address specific age-based needs, reduce unhealthy habits, and promote long-term healthy eating, improving overall health outcomes.

VIII. (b) Building healthier communities

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING

(Answers evaluated on format, content, tone & word limit. Indicative points below)

Q3 & Q4 (Notice / Invitation / Reply)

3. Format :1 Box, name of issuing authority- organisation/ agency (top centre), NOTICE (centre), date of issue (aligned left) Authorisation name, designation & signature (bottom left) NOTE-full credit if all aspects included. Partial credit ($\frac{1}{2}$ mark) if one-two aspects are missing. No credit if more than two aspects are missing.

Content: 2

Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar: 1

4. Format – 1

Content -2

Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1

A-(Letter type formal / third person)

B-(Letter type formal, first/ third person)

Q5. A. Letter to the Editor

Format: 1 (Note -use of ‘Yours truly’ at close) **Organisation of Ideas: 1, Content: 2** As per cues + ideas, Accuracy of Spelling and **Grammar :1**

B. Job Application

Format: 1 **Organisation of Ideas: 1** **Content: 2 → Covering Letter** • Reference to the advertisement • Conveying suitability for the position (as advertised) • Submission of application → Bio data as separate enclosure • Profile of self • Educational Qualifications (include advertised requirements) • Work experience/s (if relevant) • References • Any other relevant information • Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar :1

Q6. Article / Report

A.Format:1 Organisation of Ideas:1 Content:2 Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar:1

Article Writing Format • Title & By line Organisation & Content: Examples

B. Report: Format • Headline & By line • Reporting place and date Paragraphing organisation (Introductory paragraph + one or two Body paragraphs including event details + Concluding paragraph inclusive of witness accounts) Organisation & Content:

- Who / What / When / Where / Why / How
- Formal language

SECTION C – LITERATURE

Q7. A Thing of Beauty

I. (c) Immortality of art and literature

II. TRUE

III. ...they nourish the human spirit endlessly.

IV. Fountain imagery

It symbolizes continuous inspiration and spiritual nourishment.

V. lead

VI. (d)

Q7. My Mother at Sixty-six

I. (b) Helpless fear

II. Shows emotional restraint and inner conflict.

III. (b) sensitivity

IV. (c)

V. Highlights inevitability of aging and fear of separation.

VI. It suggests forced reassurance and concealed pain.

Q8. Journey to the End of the Earth

I. Absence of humans makes Antarctica a pristine climate record holder.

II. (c)

III. They preserve historical carbon data.

IV. Use of facts, data, and scientific references.

Q9. The Last Lesson

I. sounds of desks, ruler rapping

II. (d) Running late

III. Suggests unnatural silence.

IV. Evidence: “I had counted on the commotion...”

V. Symbolizes authority and discipline.

VI. (a)

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: (5x 2=10)

I. Indigo – Rajendra Prasad's consultations at Motihari

Rajendra Prasad's recorded upshot shows that the lawyers were more interested in earning fees than in delivering justice to the peasants. It highlights the exploitative legal system and reinforces Gandhi's belief that self-reliance and truth were stronger than legal battles.

II. Deep Water – Effect of informative vs sensory narration

If the narration were more informative than sensory, the reader would feel emotionally detached. Douglas's use of sensory details, such as fear, suffocation, and panic, allows readers to experience his trauma, making the lesson on overcoming fear more powerful and relatable.

III. The Rattrap – Role of the forest setting

The remote forest setting creates a dark, mysterious, and gloomy tone, reflecting the peddler's loneliness and moral confusion. It symbolises the world as a trap, reinforcing the mood of uncertainty, danger, and isolation that shapes the story's central theme.

IV. Interview – Meaning of 'interstices' and Eco's use

Interstices refer to the empty gaps or spaces between activities. Umberto Eco uses these moments for intellectual reflection, reading, and writing, turning unoccupied time into productive creativity, which explains his ability to produce extensive scholarly and literary work.

V. Going Places – Sophie's father

These lines show that Sophie's father is practical, realistic, and blunt. He disapproves of Sophie's fantasising and fears it may lead to trouble or disappointment, revealing his protective yet unsympathetic nature shaped by his experience with harsh realities.

VI. Poets and Pancakes – Subbu's creativity and loyalty

Subbu reflects creativity through his original ideas, acting talent, and script contributions, while his loyalty is evident in his unquestioning devotion to the Boss. Despite personal sacrifices, he supports the studio wholeheartedly, making him both artistically gifted and obedient.

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words each: (2x 2=4)

I. On the Face of It – Impact of Mr. Lamb's death on Derry

Mr. Lamb's death is likely to cause initial emotional shock and grief in Derry, but it will ultimately strengthen his self-confidence and independence. Mr. Lamb's teachings about acceptance, courage, and social interaction will continue to guide Derry's emotional growth and social integration.

II. The Tiger King – Satirical role of the Toy Tiger

The Toy Tiger serves as a powerful satirical device, exposing the Maharaja's fatal hubris and misplaced confidence. Ironically, after killing real tigers to defy fate, he is killed by a harmless toy, highlighting the central irony and mockery of destiny.

III. Memories of Childhood – ‘Eating by formula’ as a hard trial

Zitkala-Sa found ‘eating by formula’ humiliating and distressing because it enforced rigid rules, unfamiliar food, and forced discipline. Being observed, corrected, and punished for natural behaviour made the experience a painful loss of freedom and cultural identity.

12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. (1x 5=5)

A. Keeping Quiet – Silence as a Path to Self-Discovery

In *Keeping Quiet*, Pablo Neruda advocates silence and stillness as tools for deep self-reflection. By asking individuals to pause all activity and count to twelve, the poet urges people to step back from violence, greed, and mindless competition. This moment of collective silence allows individuals to understand their inner selves, acknowledge their mistakes, and rediscover empathy and coexistence.

On a larger scale, nations are encouraged to reassess actions such as war, exploitation of nature, and blind progress. Silence becomes a metaphor for introspection, not inactivity. Neruda clarifies that he does not promote death or passivity but thoughtful action guided by awareness. Through stillness, humanity can move towards peace, harmony, and responsible living, making silence a powerful instrument of transformation.

B. EXAMPLE: Moments of Realisation – The Rattrap Peddler & Franz

The rattrap peddler experiences realisation after receiving unexpected kindness from Edla Willmannsson. Her trust and compassion awaken his moral conscience, transforming him from a cynical thief into a redeemed individual who returns the stolen money. This change highlights the power of human goodness and empathy.

Similarly, Franz in *The Last Lesson* realises the value of his language and education when he learns that French will no longer be taught in his school. The sudden sense of loss fills him with regret and respect for M. Hamel and his mother tongue.

Both characters’ realisations lead to emotional maturity, reinforcing the message that awareness often arises through loss or kindness, shaping meaningful change in life.

13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. (1x 5=5)

A. The Enemy – Role of Belief Systems in Shaping the Narrative

In *The Enemy*, Pearl S. Buck effectively uses religion, family bonds, and patriotism to shape the setting, conflict, motivation, and pacing of the narrative. Set during the Second World War, the story’s tension arises from the clash between national loyalty and humanitarian values. Dr. Sadao’s inner conflict is rooted in his patriotic duty as a Japanese citizen versus his moral belief in saving human life, reinforced by his religious and ethical upbringing.

Family bonds play a crucial role through Hana’s support, which strengthens Sadao’s resolve and humanizes the narrative. The presence of the General, who represents blind patriotism yet relies on Sadao, deepens the irony and advances the plot. These belief systems intensify suspense, regulate pacing, and ultimately convey that humanity and conscience transcend political allegiance, giving the story its enduring moral impact.

B. The Third Level – Fantasy, Reality, and Escapism

In *The Third Level*, Jack Finney skillfully employs stream of consciousness and the blurring of fantasy and reality to convey Charlie's deep psychological need for escapism. Charlie's thoughts shift fluidly between the stress-ridden modern world and an idealised past, reflecting his inner turmoil. The imagined third level of Grand Central Station becomes a symbolic escape from war anxiety, insecurity, and material pressure.

Finney deliberately keeps the boundary between reality and imagination ambiguous, especially through the letter from Sam, which sustains the illusion of the third level's existence. This narrative technique strengthens the theme that escapism is a human coping mechanism, not mere fantasy. Ultimately, Charlie's journey reveals a longing for simplicity, certainty, and emotional comfort, making fantasy the central engine driving the story's meaning.