



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

UNIT TEST (2026-2027)

ENGLISH

Class: XI

Date: 18/ 05 /2026

Time: 1 hour

M.M: 30

General Instructions:

- ✓ All questions are compulsory.
- ✓ The question paper consists of four sections:
Section A - Reading - 8Marks
Section B - Writing - 3 Marks
Section C - Grammar – 4 Marks
Section D - Literature – 15 Marks
- ✓ Attempt one section at a stretch and then move to the next section and number your questions correctly.
- ✓ While attempting MCQs, write the correct option number along with the answer.
- ✓ Use of correcting fluid (whitener) is prohibited.
- ✓ This paper consists of 4 printed pages.

	SECTION A-READING	
Q. I	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	8 Marks
	Time as Resource and Burden in the Modern Era 1. In contemporary society, time has evolved into both a precious resource and a heavy burden. Unlike earlier civilizations that lived in harmony with natural rhythms—measuring life by the cycles of seasons, harvests, and celestial movements—today’s world is dominated by clocks, schedules, and deadlines. Time is no longer simply experienced; it is quantified, managed, and often monetized. This transformation has undeniably fueled efficiency, innovation, and progress, but it has also introduced new forms of anxiety and restlessness. 2. Philosophers often argue that our fixation on time reflects a deeper existential concern: the fear of mortality. By filling every moment with tasks, meetings, and goals, we attempt to exert control over what is ultimately uncontrollable—the finite nature of human existence. Yet paradoxically, this relentless management of time often leaves us feeling that we have less of it. Leisure, once regarded as essential for reflection, creativity, and spiritual renewal, is now frequently dismissed as indulgence or wasted opportunity. 3. Technology has intensified this paradox. Devices promise to save time, yet they also consume it. A smartphone enables instant communication, but it simultaneously demands constant attention. Social media platforms, designed to connect, often fragment our focus and erode our sense of presence. The result is a culture where people are perpetually busy but rarely fulfilled, caught in a cycle of productivity that seldom translates into meaning. 4. Against this backdrop, some thinkers advocate a return to what they call “slow time.” This approach does not reject progress or technological advancement but instead seeks to restore balance. Slow time emphasizes quality over quantity, presence over productivity. It encourages individuals to pause, reflect, and engage deeply with experiences rather than rushing through them. In embracing slow time, one might rediscover peace, creativity, and a renewed sense of meaning in life.	

	5. Ultimately, the modern relationship with time is a double-edged sword. While the precise measurement and management of time have enabled extraordinary achievements, they have also fostered a culture of restlessness and disconnection. The challenge lies in reclaiming time not merely as a resource to be optimized but as a dimension of life to be lived fully. By integrating the wisdom of slow time into our fast-paced world, we may find a way to harmonize progress with presence, efficiency with fulfillment, and productivity with peace.							
	1. Philosophers argue that our obsession with time reflects a fear of mortality. (True/False) 2. Leisure, once considered essential for reflection and creativity, is now seen as indulgence or wasted opportunity. 3. What paradox does constant management of time create? Ans- Managing time makes us feel we have less of it. 4. Match the following: <table><tr><td>A. Smartphones →</td><td>I. Encourages deep engagement with experiences</td></tr><tr><td>B. Social media →</td><td>II. Demands constant attention</td></tr><tr><td>C. Slow time →</td><td>III. Fragments focus</td></tr></table> a) A-I, B-II, C-III b) A-II, B-I, C-III c) A-II, B-III, C-I d) A-III, B-II, C-I 5. Assertion–Reason Assertion (A): Technology has intensified the paradox of time. Reason (R): Devices both save time and consume it. Choose the correct option: a) A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A b) A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A c) A is true, R is false d) A is false, R is true 6. What does “slow time” emphasize according to the passage? Ans- Slow time emphasizes quality over quantity and presence over productivity. 7. Which statement from the passage suggests that people are “perpetually busy but rarely fulfilled”? Ans-“The result is a culture where people are perpetually busy but rarely fulfilled.” 8. Give a synonym for the word definitely used in the passage. (para 1) Ans- undeniably	A. Smartphones →	I. Encourages deep engagement with experiences	B. Social media →	II. Demands constant attention	C. Slow time →	III. Fragments focus	
A. Smartphones →	I. Encourages deep engagement with experiences							
B. Social media →	II. Demands constant attention							
C. Slow time →	III. Fragments focus							
	SECTION B - WRITING	3 Marks						
Q. II.	Draft a classified advertisement for a reputed IT company in Bangalore seeking two software engineers with strong programming skills, problem-solving ability, and experience in Java/Python. Mention qualifications, salary, and contact details.	1Format + 2 Content						
	OR							

	Draft a classified advertisement for a Science graduate with a Bachelor's in Education, seeking a teaching position in reputed schools located in and around Delhi. Mention qualifications, preferred subjects, experience, and contact details.	1Format + 2 Content
	SECTION C - GRAMMAR	4 Marks
Q. III.	Rearrange the following words/ phrases to make meaningful sentences- <u>ANY TWO</u>	2
A	students / hardworking / succeed / always / examinations / in / their Hardworking students always succeed in their examinations.	
B	teacher / praised / the / performance / excellent / for / his / student Teacher praised the student for his excellent performance.	
C	train / missed / because / late / was / he / station / the / reached He missed the train because he reached the station late.	
Q. IV.	Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence. <u>ANY TWO</u>	2
A	If they ____ (inform) us earlier, we ____ (make) the necessary arrangements. a) inform / make b) informed / made c) had informed / would have made d) have informed / will make	
B	The new policy ____ (implement) since January, and many changes ____ (observe). a) is implemented / are observed b) has been implemented / have been observed c) was implemented / were observed d) will be implemented / will be observed	
C	She ____ (practice) the piano every day, but lately she ____ (not/do) so. a) practices / does not do b) practiced / did not do c) has practiced / has not done d) used to practice / has not been doing	
	SECTION D - LITERATURE	15 Marks
Q. V.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for <u>ANY ONE</u> of the two given:	1X4=4
A	<i>"And of this circumstance There is nothing to say at all. Its silence silences."</i> 1.The circumstance here being referred to is_ death of the poet's mother. 2.Why does the poet say "nothing to say"? Ans- Her grief is beyond words 3.How does this line reflect the theme of the poem? Ans- It reflects the inevitability of death. Or Mortality/Non - permanence/Transience of Human life. 4.Which poetic device is used in the phrase "Its silence silences."? a) Simile b) Metaphor c) Alliteration d) Allusion	
B	<i>"John Byro looked into the mouth of the horse. Tooth for tooth, he said. I would swear</i>	

	<i>it is my horse if I didn't know your parents. The fame of your family for honesty is well known to me. Yet the horse is the twin of my horse. A suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart."</i> 1. John Byro was a farmer by profession and owner of the horse. 2.What does the word <i>twin</i> mean in this extract? Exactly same/Identical 3.Assertion Reason Question: Assertion (A): John Byro does not directly accuse the boys of stealing his horse. Reason (R): He trusts the honesty and reputation of their family more than the evidence of his own eyes. Options: a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. c) A is true, but R is false. d) A is false, but R is true. 4.How does Byro's trust influence the boys' final decision? Ans-Byro's trust and faith in their tribe's reputation leads the boys to return the horse. OR They feel guilty for betraying such trust and realize the moral weight of their actions. OR This ultimately compels them to return the horse, showing that Byro's trust and kindness awaken their conscience more effectively than anger or punishment would.	
Q. VI.	Answer ANY THREE of the following in about 40 to 50 words:	2X3=6
A	What does the poet mean by "Both wry with the laboured ease of loss"? (A Photograph)	
Ans-	It indicates that both the mother (looking at the photo) and the poet (thinking of her mother) have suffered loss, but both have learned to live with the pain, trying to accept it with difficulty.	
B	Why does Aram initially believe Mourad could not have stolen the horse? (The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)	
	Ans- Aram believes Mourad could not have stolen the horse because their family was renowned for honesty. Theft was unimaginable for a Garoghlanian. Aram convinces himself that Mourad only "borrowed" the horse, reflecting his innocence and his struggle to reconcile family values with his desire to ride the beautiful white horse.	
C	What has not changed over the years? Does this suggest something to you? (A Photograph)	
Ans-	The sea has not changed, while the humans in the photo have aged and died. This highlights the permanence of nature compared to the transient nature of human life.	
D	How did the sparrows react to the grandmother's death? (The Portrait of a Lady)	
Ans-	The sparrows were silent, and they did not chirp or eat the breadcrumbs that were thrown to them, appearing to mourn her death.	
Q.VII.	Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100 to 120 words:	5X1=5
A	How does the grandmother of Khushwant Singh embody spirituality and tradition in the story 'The Portrait of a Lady'?	
Ans-	- Constantly praying, counting beads, reciting scriptures - Life centered on faith and devotion	

	• Traditional Values- Disapproves of modern education without religion Strong attachment to tradition and spirituality • Simple dress and lifestyle • Associated with animals like sparrows and dogs • Quiet dignity and calm presence • Final Moments - Chooses prayer over conversation, Prepares for death with acceptance and serenity • Represents faith, sacrifice, and devotion	
B Ans-	Mourad is described as “crazy” yet deeply compassionate. Discuss how his actions and personality traits reveal the contradictions in his character. Support your answer with examples from the story. • Known for unpredictable behavior, called “crazy” due to impulsive actions • Adventurous Spirit, Steals horse for joyrides, Loves freedom and excitement, Influences Aram with daring nature • Compassionate & Sensitive- Deep love for animals and nature, Calms and soothes the horse, ensures no harm comes to it, wildly adventurous but deeply kind, Embodies contradictions, • Represents Garoghlanian “crazy streak”, • Ultimately returns the horse, Shows respect for honesty and morality, • Youthful temptation vs. moral responsibility	
	Other appropriate and relevant answers	