



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

ASSESSMENT 1 (2026-2027)

ENGLISH CORE

Class: XI

Time: 3 hours

Date: 17/09/2026

M.M: 80

General Instructions:

- ✓ **All questions are compulsory.**
- ✓ **The question paper consists of three sections:**
 - Section A – Reading Skills** - 26 Marks
 - Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills** - 23 Marks
 - Section C – Literature** - 31 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.**

	SECTION A-READING	26 Marks
Q. I	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	10 Marks
1	Arjun was an architect, renowned for designing modern skyscrapers in bustling cities. His life was a whirlwind of deadlines, meetings, and blueprints, leaving little time for reflection. One Friday evening, while clearing his desk, he stumbled upon an old, faded photograph of his childhood home. The simple cottage nestled in the hills, surrounded by tall oak trees, brought a rush of memories—the sound of chirping birds, the scent of fresh rain, and his grandmother’s stories by the fireplace. Her laughter, warm and contagious, echoed in his mind.	
2	That night, he could no sleep. Tossing and turning, he realized it had been over 20 years since he last visited his ancestral home. On an impulse, he decided to take a break and revisit the place where he had spent his happiest days. This was not just a trip to a physical location but a journey to rediscover parts of himself lost in the chaos of adulthood. The journey took five hours by car, weaving through highways and narrow mountain roads, followed by a 20-minute trek uphill. The steep path, lined with vibrant wildflowers, contrasted sharply with the grey monotony of the city. When Arjun reached the crest of the hill, the sight of the old cottage took his breath away. Time seemed to have stood still. The wooden structure, though weathered, still held its charm. The red-tiled roof, overgrown shrubs in the garden, and a swing hanging from the oak tree felt like pieces of a puzzle falling into place.	
3	Pushing open the creaky gate, Arjun stepped onto the porch. The door was unlocked, and a faint musty smell greeted him. Dust motes danced in the sunlight streaming through the windows. Inside, furniture was covered in white sheets, and the ticking of an old clock echoed faintly. Each corner seemed to whisper stories of laughter, footsteps, and secrets from the past.	
4	In his grandmother’s room, Arjun found a leather-bound journal on the bedside table. Curious, he opened it and began reading. The diary was filled with entries about her daily life, hopes, and dreams. One entry caught his attention: “Arjun is a curious child, always asking questions about the world. He dreams of building things that touch the sky. I hope he never loses that wonder.” Tears welled up in	

	his eyes. He had fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming an architect, but in the process, he had forgotten the simple joys of life. His work consumed him, leaving little room for curiosity or connection.	
5	Exploring further, Arjun found a box of childhood treasures—hand-drawn sketches, toy cars, and a model of a treehouse he had designed but never built. Holding the model, he felt a pang of regret. He had promised his grandmother he would build the treehouse, but life had taken him in a different direction. That promise, once so meaningful, had been buried under layers of ambition and responsibility. Determined to honour his promise, Arjun decided to spend the weekend building the treehouse. He found old tools in the shed, along with planks of wood and nails. Though years had passed since he worked with his hands, the process was strangely therapeutic. The rhythmic sound of hammering, the scent of freshly cut wood, and the rustling leaves transported him to a simpler time.	
6	As he worked, memories of his grandmother’s encouragement and belief in him filled his heart. She had always said the best creations were those made with love and intention. By Sunday evening, the treehouse stood proudly on the oak tree—simple yet sturdy. It wasn’t just a physical structure but a tribute to his grandmother and a testament to their shared dreams. Climbing up, Arjun sat inside, gazing at the breath-taking view of the valley. The golden hues of the setting sun painted the landscape in shades of orange and pink. For the first time in years, he felt contentment. The weight of deadlines and expectations melted away, replaced by a profound connection to the present. Before leaving the next morning, Arjun planted a sapling near the treehouse, symbolizing new beginnings. The act felt symbolic, as though he were planting a part of himself back into the soil of his roots. Locking the cottage, he left with a promise to return. The visit had rekindled something within him—a connection to his roots and a sense of purpose beyond deadlines and skyscrapers.	
7	Back in the city, Arjun carried the memories of his weekend like a precious treasure. He made small changes in his life—taking breaks to sketch for pleasure, spending weekends in nature, and reconnecting with old friends. His architectural designs began to reflect a new sensibility, blending modernity with nature, inspired by the harmony he had rediscovered in his ancestral home. Months later, one of his projects, a community centre surrounded by greenery, won an award for sustainable design. During his acceptance speech, Arjun spoke about the importance of finding balance in life and staying connected to one’s roots. He ended with a quote from his grandmother’s diary: “Never lose your wonder.”	
8	Years passed, but Arjun kept his promise to visit the cottage regularly. The treehouse became a cherished spot, not just for him but also for his children. It stood as a bridge between generations, a place where stories were shared, dreams nurtured, and the spirit of wonder kept alive.	
	On the basis of your reading of the above excerpt, answer the questions that follow-	
i	Why does the passage emphasize the line “Never lose your wonder”? a. It reminds readers to stay connected to their roots and dreams b. It highlights the difficulties of balancing work and family life c. It critiques modern society’s focus on material success d. It underlines the value of maintaining professional ambition	1 Mark

ii	What broader message does Arjun's journey convey about life? a. Personal fulfilment often outweighs professional goals b. Work-life balance requires reconnecting with one's past c. Success is achieved through revisiting long-forgotten plans d. Happiness comes from simplifying both work and life	1 Mark
iii	Assertion (A): Arjun's work as an architect left him feeling fulfilled and balanced. Reason (R): He had devoted his life to building modern skyscrapers in cities. 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.	1 Mark
iv	State True or False Arjun's architectural designs after his visit reflected a blend of nature and modernity.	1 Mark
v	What does Arjun's act of planting a sapling near the treehouse symbolize?	1 Mark
vi	How does the act of completing the treehouse serve as a turning point in Arjun's personal and professional life?	2 Marks
vii	The narrator describes his experience of building the treehouse as an attempt to express the growing sense of _____ in his connection with his childhood and nature.	1 Mark
viii	What does the word 'rekindled' in para 6 suggest about Arjun's emotional state?	1 Mark
ix	Which literary device is present in "the house seemed to echo with laughter, footsteps, and whispered secrets from the past"? a. Alliteration b. Imagery c. Personification d. Symbolism	1 Mark
Q. II.	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	8 Marks
1	A large majority of the elderly in India does not get long-term and palliative care, revealed a study conducted for the United Nations. The survey of more than 10,000 respondents across Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern and Central India during May-June 2018, showed that 62.1% of the elderly did not get such care. More than half of these people, 52.4%, said they primarily need traditional family support, says a study by Age well Research and Advocacy Centre.	
2	Older people in India often face problems such as disability, restricted mobility, loneliness, poverty and lack of awareness on accessing old-term care. With a fast-growing population of older people, the ever-increasing gap between generations and the fast and demanding lifestyle of young people, for a majority of older people, life is still a struggle for independence.	
3	"According to 64% of elderly respondents, loneliness, marginalization and isolation are the most critical issues faced by bedridden, elderly patients as they cannot visit, meet or interact with their relatives, friends and neighbours," said Himanshu Rath, founder of Age well Foundation.	
4	The elderly have to compromise and make adjustments in their lifestyle according	

	to the wishes of the younger members of their families to ensure they are cared for, the study revealed. It highlighted that 67.6% of the elderly being taken care of their family members have to look after the children of the families. They have to perform tasks such as babysitting in return for proper care and support.	
5	“Around 73.7% said they have to take care of the house and other properties of their younger family members to ensure long-term and palliative care in old age”, the study report said. “Over 75% of respondents have to limit their personal social interactions as their family members direct them to do so, otherwise their family members can avoid providing their basic needs of food and medicines.” Most elderly respondents (68.5%) said breaking up of the joint family system is one of the biggest factors for the challenges they face in getting long-term palliative care.	
6	Healthcare equipment such as wheelchairs, relief material such as adult diapers and care-giving service should be provided on a regular basis to destitute older people, who are bedridden and suffering from acute mobility issues, the report said. “Though providing long-term and palliative care to older persons comes in the purview of family responsibilities in India, it is observed that older persons, who are financially independent, have a high net worth or hold property entitlements, are treated comparatively well by their family members,” said Rath.	
7	“Managing home care for the elderly is a massive challenge as multiple service providers—nursing agencies, physiotherapists and medical suppliers—are small scale and unorganized and, therefore, provide incomplete care,” he said. “In India, health insurance coverage is essentially limited to hospitalization. The concept of geriatric care has remained a neglected area of medicine so far in the country.”	
	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.	
i	List two essential requirements for older people suffering from mobility issues.	1 Mark
ii	Select the option that displays the reason behind financially independent elderly being better off. (a) They have money to meet their financial needs. (b) They are treated with much more care and respect. (c) They are seen as one to be revered. (d) They have medical expenses.	1 Mark
iii	After reading the passage, what do you think is the primary need of all the elderly people in India?	1 Mark
iv	Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. According to the study, long-term and palliative care comes under the purview of _____. (a) government responsibilities (b) liabilities (c) social responsibilities (d) Both (a) and (c)	1 Mark
v	Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement. Joint Family System along with the need for private space has brought challenges to the long-term elderly care.	2 Marks
vi	Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference from the last paragraph of the passage. The concluding paragraph of the passage makes a clear case for _____.	1 Mark
vii	State whether the given statement is True or False. In order to get proper care and support, the old people have to adjust their lifestyle as per the wishes of their children.	1 Mark
Q. III.	Read the passage and answer the questions given below:	8 Marks
1	There is a clear dichotomy between Jayashankar Prasad’s daily life and the one that found expression in his literature. In his literary formulations, Prasad	

	advocated an escape- from personality ideal and categorically stated: “An artist’s art, and not his person, is the touchstone to assess his work . . . it is only after losing his personality that he emerges in his art as an artist”.	
2	In Prasad’s works – his poems, short stories, novels, dramas etc. – what emerges is life as shaped in the writer’s inner self by his emotions, fancies, dreams, reveries . . . His writings are a record not of outer reality, but of the artist’s inner world. As such, of a proper appreciation and understanding of his works more emphasis needs to be placed on the working of his mind, than the events of his day to-day life.	
3	Prasad was born in a renowned family of Varansi. His grand-father Shiv RatanSahu, a dealer in high quality perfumed tobacco (snuff). Besides being an astute businessman, he was endowed with a marked cultural taste. His home was the meeting place of the local poets, singers, artists, scholars and men of religion. Prasad’s father Devi Prasad Sahu carried forward this high tradition of family. Prasad, therefore, had a chance to study the various phases of human nature in the light of the business traditions, artistic taste and religious background of his family.	
4	When the business had somewhat recovered, Prasad planned the publication of a literary journal. Prasad started the “Indu”. The inaugural number appeared in July 1909. By this time Prasad’s notions of literature had crystalized into a credo. In the first issue of Indu, he proclaimed, “Literature has no fixed aim; it is not slave to rules; it is free and all-embracing genius, gives birth to genuine literature which is subservient to none. Whatever in the world is true and beautiful is its subject matter. By the dealing with the True and Beautiful it establishes the one and affects the full flowering of the others. Its force can be measured by the degree of pleasure it gives to the reader’s mind as also by criticism which is free of all prejudice”. The words sound like the manifesto of romanticism in literature.	
5	Even while recognizing the social relevance of literature, Prasad insisted, “The poet is a creator . . . he is not conditioned by his milieu; rather it is he who moulds it and gives it a new shape; he conjures up a new world of beauty where the reader for the time being, becomes oblivious of the outer world and passes his time in an eternal spring garden where golden lotuses blossom and the air is thick and pollen”. Thus, the chief aim of literature according to Prasad is to give joy to the reader and to create a state of bliss in him. Later under the impact of Shaivadvaitism, this faith of Prasad got further strengthened.	
a	On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary- minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.	5 Marks
b	Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words.	3 Marks
Q. IV.	SECTION B - GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS	23 Marks
	GRAMMAR- Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:	(7 Marks)
i	Choose the correct option Every year, the river floods the village, but this year the authorities _____ preventive measures. a) has taken b) took c) have taken d) had taken	

ii	Select the correct option At this time tomorrow, we _____ our final examination. a) shall write b) will write c) shall be writing d) will be writing	
iii	few/ had/ only been a/ rain/ minutes/ he/ since/ had walked/ it/ outside/ it began to/ when (reorder correctly)	
iv	on the platform/ vendors with/ were/ wares/ their/ selling/ flowers/ sweet-smelling/ the (reorder correctly)	
v	The roads are wet. It _____ during the night. a) rains b) rained c) has rained d) had rained	
vi	Choose the correct option- Soham asked, “are you going to the party tomorrow, Ravi?” a. Soham asked if Ravi is going to the party tomorrow. b. Soham asked Ravi whether he is going to the party next day. c. Soham asked Ravi if he was going to the party the next day. d. Soham asked Ravi whether he will be going to the party tomorrow.	
vii	Choose the correct option- Rahul said, “I will come tomorrow afternoon to take my book.” a. Rahul said that he will come tomorrow afternoon to take his book. b. Rahul said that he would come tomorrow afternoon to take his book. c. Rahul said that he will come next day afternoon to take his book. d. Rahul said that he would come next day afternoon to take his book.	
Q. V.	CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS	16 Marks
	Attempt any ONE from (a) and (b) given below:	4 Marks
A.	You are the Principal of Sunrise Public School, Mysuru. Draft an advertisement in the situation vacant column of a newspaper in not more than 50 words for the post of a PGT English teacher. Mention qualifications and experience required.	
	OR	
B.	You are Roshan/ Rohini. You wish to sell your three-bedroom apartment in Ramakrishna Nagar, Mysuru. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words giving details of location, facilities, and contact information.	
Q. VI.	Attempt any ONE from (a) and (b) given below:	4 Marks
A.	You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Your school is organizing a three-day Literary Festival. Design a poster in about 50 words to inform students about the event. Include attractive slogans, date, venue, and other relevant details.	
	OR	
B.	In view of the increasing environmental challenges, prepare a poster on the theme "Be the Change: Protect Our Planet" for World Environment Day.	

Q. VII.	Attempt any ONE from (a) and (b) given below:	8 Marks
A.	Mobile phone today is no longer a mere means of communication. Music lovers are so glued to it that they don't pay attention even to the traffic while crossing the roads. This leads to accidents, sometimes even fatal ones. Write a speech in 120-150 words to be delivered in the morning assembly advising the students to be careful in the use of this otherwise very useful gadget.	
	OR	
B.	As per the last census, the literacy rate in India was around 74%. In our day-to-day life, we come across people who cannot even read or write. Looking at the gravity of the situation, you decide to deliver a speech in your school morning assembly on the topic, Each One, Teach One. Write your speech in 120-150 words. You are Bhuvan/Bina.	
	SECTION C - LITERATURE	31 Marks
Q. VIII.	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	3 Marks
A.	<i>The cardboard shows me how it was</i> <i>When the two girl cousins went paddling,</i> <i>Each one holding one of my mother's hands,</i> <i>And she the big girl - some twelve years or so.</i>	
i	What is cardboard referred to in the first line of the extract?	1 Mark
ii	Identify the literary device used in the expression "The cardboard shows me how it was" and explain its significance.	1 Mark
iii	Fill in the blank with one word only. The poet looks at the photograph with feelings of _____ for a bygone time.	1 Mark
	OR	
B.	<i>"Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt, She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up Of chitterings, and a tremor of wings, and trillings — The whole tree trembles and thrills."</i>	
i	What does the phrase "a machine starts up" suggest?	
ii	Why is the goldfinch compared to a lizard?	
iii	State True or False The expression "The whole tree trembles and thrills" is an example of personification.	
Q. IX.	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	3 Marks
A.	<i>There, before heading east, we took on two crewmen - American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Seigler - to help us tackle one of the world's roughest seas, the southern Indian Ocean. On our second day out of Cape Town, we began to encounter strong gales. For the next few weeks, they blew continuously. Gales did not worry me; but the size of the waves was alarming - up to 15 metres, as high as our main mast.</i>	
i	Why two extra crewmen were hired?	1 Mark
ii	Assertion (A): The narrator was not particularly worried about the gales. Reason (R): He had anticipated strong winds during the voyage. 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.	1 Mark

	c) A is true, but R is false. d) A is false, but R is true.	
iii	The enormous waves highlighted the _____ nature of the southern Indian Ocean.	1 Mark
	OR	
	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	3 Marks
B.	<i>Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world has speculated about what happened to him, with murder being the most extreme possibility. Now, leaving his tomb for the first time in almost 80 years, Tut has undergone a CT scan that offers new clues about his life and death - and provides precise data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of the boyish pharaoh.</i>	
i	Why CT scan has been performed on Tut's Mummy?	1 Mark
ii	Choose the word from the extract that means "to guess or form theories without having complete evidence."	1 Mark
iii	State True or False. Tut's remains were being scientifically and technologically examined after months of remaining undisturbed.	1 Mark
Q. X.	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	4 Marks
A.	<i>I was home for a few days and it struck me immediately that something or other about the rooms had changed. I missed various things. My mother was surprised I should have noticed so quickly. Then she told me about Mrs. Dorling. I had never heard of her but apparently, she was an old acquaintance of my mother, whom she hadn't seen for years. She had suddenly turned up and renewed their contact. Since, then she had come regularly.</i>	
i	What quality of the narrator's mother is highlighted in the extract?	1 Mark
ii	Assertion (A): The narrator's mother was suspicious of Mrs. Dorling's intentions. Reason (R): Mrs. Dorling had suddenly reappeared after many years. a) Both A and R are true. b) A is true, but R is false. c) A is false, but R is true. d) Both A and R are false.	1 Mark
iii	State True or False. The extract suggests that the narrator was observant.	1 Mark
iv	The narrator's quick observation of the missing items reveals her _____ nature.	1 Mark
	OR	
B.	<i>"One day back there in the good old days when I was nine and the world was full of every imaginable kind of magnificence, and life was still a delightful and mysterious dream..."</i> <i>The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse</i>	
i	Why does the narrator describe life as a "delightful and mysterious dream"?	1 Mark
ii	Assertion (A): The narrator viewed life as exciting and full of wonder. Reason (R): He considered life a "delightful and mysterious dream." a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.	1 Mark

	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.	
iii	What lesson can adults learn from the narrator's view of life in the extract?	1 Mark
iv	How does the narrator's recollection of childhood contribute to the mood of the story?	1 Mark
Q. XI.	Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words. Attempt any TWO.	3x2=6 Marks
i	Describe the narrator's grandmother as depicted in <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> .	
ii	How does the poem, 'The Laburnum Top', celebrate the vitality of nature?	
iii	"The mummy is in very bad condition because of what Carter did." Explain.	
Q. XII.	Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words. Attempt any ONE.	3x1=3 Marks
i	How does Mourad's character differ from that of other family members?	
ii	What role does the title <i>The Address</i> play in the story?	
Q. XIII.	Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: -	6 Marks
i	How did the narrator and his family display courage and determination in the face of adversity in "We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together"?	
ii	"The sea holiday was her past, mine is her laughter." Explain the significance of this line in the context of the poem, "A Photograph".	
Q. XIV.	Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: -	6 Marks
i	How does the narrator's visit to Mrs. Dorling's house help her come to terms with the past?	
ii	How does the story highlight the values of honesty and family honour despite the actions of Mourad and Aram?	