



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

PRE-MID TERM EXAMINATION (2026-2027)

MARKING SCHEME

ENGLISH- SET 1

Class: IX

Time: 1 hour

Date: 14 / 05 /2026

M.M: 30

General Instructions:

- ✓ All questions are compulsory.
- ✓ The question paper consists of three sections:
Section A - Reading - 7Marks
Section B - Writing & Grammar - 7 Marks
Section C - Literature Reader – 16 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	7 Marks
Q. I	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	
	1 Cricket in South Asia is a carnivalesque, festive game. It not only carries the baggage of competition and achievement, but is a participatory cultural event that invokes images of religious festivals, convivial social gatherings, picnics and theatre. It is now gradually becoming a substitute for war, a means of redeeming self-esteem and expressing xenophobia, and a depot of weird conspiracy theories. No country now loses a game because the other side is better, a country loses only because its cricketers and cricket administrators are under-patriotic, corrupt, greedy or self-centered. 2 Unfortunately for ultra-nationalists and fortunately for the rest, cricket is one game in which the best training, organisation and preparation do not yield corresponding results. It is a subversive game that rebels against the productivity principle on which is built the world of globalized capitalism. Luck plays a major role in the final outcome of a match or series. In this respect, cricket is unlike football, tennis or chess. The grandeur of cricket and the cliched reference to its glorious uncertainties come from a cultivated ignorance of this inner contradiction in the game. Cricketers and their fans to say nothing of the experts-have to learn to live with the unpredictability without getting overly judgmental or paranoiac. All games have some built-in uncertainties; only cricket has turned the gracious acceptance of this into a measure of character. 3 Let us not forget that in cricket the 22 players involved are never on the field at the same time. Consequently, one team may play in full sunshine, while the other may have to play under an overcast sky when the ball begins to swing. One team may bat on a green top, the other on a wearing pitch. You can never truly equalize the outer conditions for the two teams. So, a cricketer not only plays against the opposition, but also against his own fate. That is one reason why it is a typically Indian or, if you prefer, South Asian game.	

	4 This is a cultural region that recognizes the role of destiny in human affairs. All cricketers are superstitious because of the nature of their job. Only South Asians are not embarrassed about it and have unashamedly built ritualized ways of dealing with destiny as a normal part of a cricketer's life. If you want a game where the investment of money, hard training and ruthless professionalism will pay predictable results, and the results will be a pure reflection of skill and talent, you should choose another game.	
	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.	1x7 =7
i	Based on the passage, why does the author describe cricket as a "subversive game" in the context of globalized capitalism? A) Because it encourages xenophobia and conspiracy theories instead of healthy competition. B) Because results do not necessarily correlate with the level of training, investment, or organization. C) Because it is a participatory cultural event rather than a professional sporting achievement. D) Because it allows players to express their religious and social identities openly on the field.	1
ii	What is the "inner contradiction" in cricket that the author refers to in paragraph 2? A) The fact that it is a festive, carnivalesque game that is simultaneously used as a "substitute for war." B) The conflict between a team's patriotic duty and the corrupt nature of cricket administrators. C) The tension between the game's demand for professional skill and the significant, unavoidable role of luck. D) The irony of 22 players being involved in a game without ever being on the field at the same time.	1
iii	According to the author's logic in paragraph 3, why is cricket "typically Indian" or South Asian? A) Because South Asians are the only people who truly understand the technical nuances of swing bowling. B) Because the region's climate creates the "overcast skies" and "green tops" mentioned in the text. C) Because the game mirrors the cultural acceptance of destiny and the influence of fate in human life. D) Because it provides a platform for South Asians to express ultra-nationalism and self-esteem.	1

iv	Based on the author's comparison in paragraph 2, what specific quality distinguishes cricket's relationship with uncertainty compared to other sports like football or chess? Ans: Cricket is unique because it has transformed the "gracious acceptance" of built-in uncertainties into a fundamental measure of a person's character.	1
v	How does the author justify the claim in paragraph 3 that a cricketer's performance is a struggle against "his own fate"? The author justifies this by pointing out that outer playing conditions, such as weather and pitch quality, can never be equalized for both teams, making the outcome dependent on destiny rather than just skill.	1
vi	Write 'True' or 'False' According to the passage, the primary reason a country loses a cricket match in South Asia is due to the superior skill and preparation of the opposing team. Ans: False	1
vii	The word 'grandeur' in paragraph 2 nearly means the same as (a) magnificence (b) cruel (c) momentary (d) loyal	1
SECTION B - WRITING & GRAMMAR		7 Marks
Q. II.	Attempt ANY ONE from (a) and (b) given below:	
A	Write a letter to the editor of a leading newspaper about the growing cybercrimes and some ways to curb them. You are Shriram / Sreedevi, 79, Shivaji Street, Bright light Marg, New Delhi.	4
OR		
B	Write a letter to the editor of a leading newspaper highlighting the growing problem of plastic pollution in your city. Discuss its harmful effects on the environment and public health, and suggest practical measures that citizens and authorities can take to address this issue. You are Suresh / Surabhi, L M Street, M P Nagar, Rajasthan. Format-1.5 (Sender's Address, Receiver's Address, Date & Subject) Content-2.5 (Salutation, paragraphing, language, complimentary closing)	4
GRAMMAR		3 Marks
Q. III	Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets: Last summer, while my family (a) _____ (travel) through the mountains, we stumbled upon a hidden waterfall. My brother, who is usually very cautious, (b) _____ (decide) to jump into the cold water immediately. Since that day, we (c) _____ (visit) that spot every single year to relive the memory. (a) was traveling (b) decided (c) have visited/visit	3
SECTION C- LITERATURE		16 Marks
Q. IV.	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	
A	"When I came back to my village, I saw my grandmother in tears. I was surprised, for I had never seen her cry even in the most difficult situations. What had happened? I was worried. 'Avva, is everything all right? Are you okay?'"	
i.	Which of the following best describes the narrator's state of mind upon seeing her	

	grandmother? A) Indifferent and detached B) Perplexed and apprehensive C) Joyful and excited D) Relieved and calm	1
ii	Fill in the Blanks The narrator's surprise stems from the fact that her grandmother usually displayed great _____ even during challenging times. Resilience / Strength / Fortitude (Any word indicating emotional strength).	1
iii.	Why does the narrator use the word "even" in the phrase '<i>even in the most difficult situations</i>'? Ans: It emphasizes that the grandmother was an exceptionally strong person who rarely showed vulnerability or emotional breakdown.	1
iv	What does the narrator's immediate reaction—asking "Are you okay?"—reveal about her relationship with her grandmother? Ans: It reveals a bond of deep affection, concern, and sensitivity toward her grandmother's well-being.	1
B.	"Here Brahma-knowledge has taken root, and the Buddha preached his dhamma here. Of hoary antiquity is Bharat, she's peerless, let's praise her! ..."	
i	What does the poet imply by using the phrase "hoary antiquity" to describe Bharat? A) That the nation is outdated and needs modernization. B) That the nation has a history so ancient it is revered and respected. C) That the nation is cold and covered in frost. D) That the nation's history is unknown and mysterious.	1
ii	Fill in the Blanks By mentioning both "Brahma-knowledge" and "Buddha's dhamma," the poet highlights Bharat's identity as a land of deep _____ and spiritual diversity. Ans: Wisdom / Philosophy / Spirituality/history/intellectual/knowledge	1
iii	Why is the meaning of the word "peerless" in the last line of the extract? Ans: To emphasize that Bharat is unique and matchless, having no equal in terms of its rich cultural and spiritual heritage.	1
iv	What is the primary tone of the poet in this extract, and what is he encouraging the readers to do? Ans: The tone is one of pride and patriotism, and he is encouraging readers to celebrate and honour their motherland.	1

Q. V.	Answer ANY FOUR questions in 30- 40 words	2x4=8
i.	In the story, Krishtakka says, "<i>For a good cause if you are determined, you can overcome any obstacle.</i>" How does the grandmother demonstrate this philosophy through her actions after the Dussehra festival? Ans: Despite her advanced age and the initial teasing she might have faced, she practiced "immensely," repeating the alphabet, writing, and reciting. Her transformation from a helpless listener into a confident reader shows that she viewed her illiteracy not as a permanent state, but as an obstacle that could be dismantled through disciplined effort and a clear goal.	2
ii.	Why does the poet say that no other river matches the grace of the Ganga? Ans: The poet says that no other river matches the grace of the Ganga because the river Ganga is considered sacred, pure, and deeply connected to the culture and heritage of India. Its beauty, spiritual importance, and life-giving nature make it unique and incomparable to any other river.	2
iii.	List any two qualities displayed by the grandmother. Hardworking, Determined, Strong, etc.	2
iv	How does the poem 'Bharat Our Land' foster a sense of national pride? Ans: The poem '<i>Bharat Our Land</i>' fosters a sense of national pride by celebrating the natural beauty, cultural richness, and spiritual heritage of India. The poet praises the country's rivers, mountains, traditions, and values, making readers feel proud of their motherland. By describing India as unique and glorious, the poem inspires love, respect, and admiration for the nation among its readers.	2
v	Sudha Murthy shifts from being a granddaughter to a "teacher." How does this role reversal challenge traditional Indian societal norms regarding age and learning, and what does it suggest about the nature of education? Ans: The role reversal challenges the norm that wisdom and knowledge flow only from the old to the young. By touching her granddaughter's feet—a gesture traditionally reserved for elders or gurus—the grandmother redefines the hierarchy of respect, placing the "teacher" (the source of knowledge) above the "age" of the person. This suggests that education is a democratic process and that being a student requires humility, regardless of one's stage in life. (Any two)	2