



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
FINAL ASSESSMENT (2025-2026)
ENGLISH CORE (Set 1)

Class: XI
Date: 19/02/2026

Time: 3 hours
M.M: 80

General Instructions:

- ✓ *All questions are compulsory.*
- ✓ *The question paper consists of three sections:*
 - Section A - Reading - 26 Marks*
 - Section B - Writing & Grammar - 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.*
- ✓ *This paper consists of 12 printed pages.*

SECTION A-READING		26 Marks
Q. I	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	10Marks
	<p>1. No student of a foreign language needs to be told that grammar is complex. By changing word sequences and by adding a range of auxiliary verbs and suffixes, we are able to communicate tiny variations in meaning. We can turn a statement into a question, state whether an action has taken place or is soon to take place, and perform many other word tricks to convey subtle differences in meaning. Nor is this complexity inherent to the English language. All languages, even those of so-called 'primitive' tribes have clever grammatical components. The Cherokee pronoun system, for example, can distinguish between 'you and I', 'several other people and I' and 'you, another person and I'. In English, all these meanings are summed up in the one, crude pronoun 'we'. Grammar is universal and plays a part in every language, no matter how widespread it is. So, the question which has baffled many linguists is - who created grammar?</p> <p>2. At first, it would appear that this question is impossible to answer. To find out how grammar is created, someone needs to be present at the time of a language's creation, documenting its emergence. Many historical linguists are able to trace modern complex languages back to earlier languages, but in order to answer the question of how complex languages are actually formed, the researcher needs to observe how languages are started from scratch. Amazingly, however, this is possible.</p> <p>3. Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade. At that time, slaves from a number of different ethnicities were forced to work together under colonizer's rule. Since they had no opportunity to learn each other's language, they developed a make-shift language called a pidgin. Pidgins are strings of words</p>	

	<p>copied from the language of the landowner. They have little in the way of grammar, and in many cases, it is difficult for a listener to deduce when an event happened, and who did what to whom. Speakers need to use circumlocution in order to make their meaning understood. Interestingly, however, all it takes for a pidgin to become a complex language is for a group of children to be exposed to it at the time when they learn their mother tongue. Slave children did not simply copy the strings of words uttered by their elders, they adapted their words to create a new, expressive language. Complex grammar systems which emerge from pidgins are termed creoles, and they are invented by children.</p> <p>4. Further evidence of this can be seen in studying sign languages for the deaf. Sign languages are not simply a series of gestures; they utilise the same grammatical machinery that is found in spoken languages. Moreover, there are many different languages used worldwide. The creation of one such language was documented quite recently in Nicaragua. Previously, all deaf people were isolated from each other, but in 1979 a new government introduced schools for the deaf. Although children were taught speech and lip reading in the classroom, in the playgrounds they began to invent their own sign system, using the gestures that they used at home. It was basically a pidgin. Each child used the signs differently, and there was no consistent grammar. However, children who joined the school later, when this inventive sign system was already around, developed a quite different sign language. Although it was based on the signs of the older children, the younger children's language was more fluid and compact, and it utilised a large range of grammatical devices to clarify meaning. What is more, all the children used the signs in the same way. A new creole was born.</p> <p>5. Some linguists believe that many of the world's most established languages were creoles at first. The English past tense –ed ending may have evolved from the verb 'do'. 'It ended' may once have been 'It end-did'. Therefore, it would appear that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children. Children appear to have innate grammatical machinery in their brains, which springs to life when they are first trying to make sense of the world around them. Their minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy.</p>	
	<p>On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.</p>	
	<p>(a) In paragraph 1, why does the writer include information about the Cherokee language?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To show how simple, traditional cultures can have complicated grammar structures. ii. To show how English grammar differs from Cherokee grammar. iii. To prove that complex grammar structures were invented by the Cherokees. 	<p>1</p>

	iv. To demonstrate how difficult, it is to learn the Cherokee language.	
	(b) What can be inferred about the slaves' pidgin language? i. It contained complex grammar. ii. It was based on many different languages. iii. It was difficult to understand, even among slaves. iv. It was created by the land-owners.	1
	(c) All the following sentences about Nicaraguan sign language are true EXCEPT: i. The language has been created since 1979. ii. The language is based on speech and lip reading. iii. The language incorporates signs which children used at home. iv. The language was perfected by younger children.	1
	(d) Which idea is presented in the final paragraph? i. English was probably once a creole. ii. The English past tense system is inaccurate. iii. Linguists have proven that English was created by children. iv. Children say English past tenses differently from adults.	1
	(e) What is common to all languages?	1
	(f) Complete the given sentence. Creoles are _____ and are invented by _____.	1
	(g) Why does the author say that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children?	2
	(h) Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: i. simple and temporary (Para 3) ii. uniform (Para 4)	2
Q. II.	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	8 Marks
	1. The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates. 2. Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. "The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit." Rowling said in an interview. "He got the measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer, though I rarely told anyone so.	

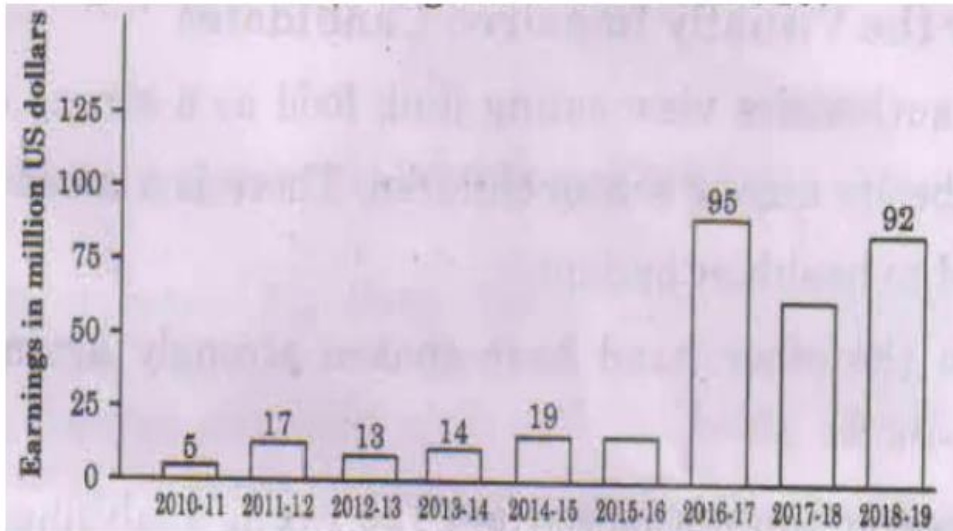
3. However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension. A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.

4. Rowling says she started writing the first book, 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone', in Portugal, where she was teaching English. At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter. She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

5. In 1997 Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night, she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.

6. Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability."

Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling from 2010 to 2019



(i) Why did Rowling's parents dismiss her desire to become a writer?

1

(ii) Complete this Analogy-
Rabbit : Miss Bee :: Harry : _____

1

	<p>(iii) At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter because _____.</p> <p>(iv) Why was Rowling outraged with the Italian dust jacket?</p> <p>(v) Find a word from paragraph 3 of the passage that means 'extremely poor'.</p> <p>(vi) Rowling was thrilled with the taped version of her books recorded by: a) Daniel Radcliffe b) Stephen Fry c) Emma Watson d) Alan Rickman</p> <p>(vii) According to the graph, how many years did it take Rowling to become very successful?</p> <p>(viii) What was the drawback of achieving fame?</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>
Q. III.	Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:	8 Marks
	<p>Medical experts have cautioned against extensive use of aluminum cookware and foils, especially for acidic food preparations containing tamarind, tomatoes and green leafy vegetables which could lead to aluminum toxicity and consequent nerve disorder. The use of aluminum cookware should be limited and their use for making acidic food preparations should be avoided as they increase aluminum leaching into food warn scientists from National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.</p> <p>Chronic exposure to high levels of aluminum through food and water could lead to nerve and brain disorder such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, they say. Studies at NIN have shown that chronic exposure of rats to high aluminum and calcium deficient diets lead to degeneration of nerves and impairment of some brain functions.</p> <p>Earlier studies too have linked high aluminum intake with dementia and bone diseases. Keeping in view evidence of a link between high aluminum content in drinking water and senile dementia and Alzheimer's disease, a reduced intake of aluminum by kidney patients and elderly persons is advisable. NIN scientists say in a report that they have also advised regular monitoring of aluminum in blood for dialysis patients. Patients with kidney disorders are particularly susceptible to aluminum is present in water, soil, plants and cooking utensils. It is added to drinking water as aluminum sulphate at the treatment plants, while soil contamination with it leads to accumulation in vegetables.</p> <p>It is also used in medicine such as antacids, analgesics and anti-diarrhoeals in food and food activities, foils, wrapping papers and cookware and in water purification processes. NIN studies showed especially green leafy vegetables, spices and in the form of 'Sambhar' contribute significantly to aluminum uptake.</p> <p>Aluminum containing food additives are generally used as buffers, neutralising agents, dough strength emulsifying agents for processed cheese and thinkers. Studies on experimental rats also showed that deficiencies of certain minerals</p>	

	such as calcium and iron enhance aluminum absorption and accumulation in tissues over a long period.	
	(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognisable abbreviations (minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title to it.	5
	(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.	3
	SECTION B - GRAMMAR & WRITING	23Marks
Q. IV.	Do as directed: Answer Any Three	3 Marks
	<p>1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate verb forms.</p> <p>a. Venting out anger _____(become) a common practice, especially in the urban life.</p> <p>b. It _____(happen) on the road, at home or at the workplace.</p> <p>2. Identify the dependent clause in the given sentence:</p> <p>c. While I was scrubbing the floors, Juliet was watching television.</p> <p>3. Identify the independent clause in the given sentence:</p> <p>d. Since I could not go to the Pancake Breakfast, I gave away my tickets.</p>	
Q. V.	Sentence Transformation - Do as directed: Answer Any Four	4 Marks
	<p>1. Read the following conversation and complete the passage given below: The tortoise said, to the geese "Why are you bidding me farewell?" The geese said, "How can we help you?" The tortoise said "I know I can't fly like you but you can take me with you".</p> <p>The tortoise asked the geese (a)_____.</p> <p>The geese asked how they could help him.</p> <p>The tortoise said that (b)_____ but they could take him with them.</p> <p>2. The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences:</p> <p>(c) following discipline / the pinnacles / by / a person/ of glory / reach / can</p> <p>(d) and at the / self-confidence / it acts as / builds / same time / a restraint</p> <p>(e) balances the personality / and inculcates / of a person / good work ethics / moreover it</p>	
Q. VI.	Attempt <u>ANY ONE</u> of the two in about 50 words:	3 Marks
	Bal Vidya Public School, Bhilai, urgently requires a post-graduate teacher to teach Political Science. Draft a suitable advertisement on behalf of the Principal of the	

	<p>school, in not more than 50 words for the 'Situations Vacant' column of 'The Bhilai Express', stating your requirements regarding age, qualification, experience etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>You are Simar/ Smriti of 11 A, Krishna Nagar, Lucknow. Having recently completed your graduation in Mass Media Studies, you are looking for a job as a Radio Jockey in a reputed Radio Station. Draft a suitable advertisement in the 'Situations Wanted' column of 'The Indian Express' in about 50 words.</p>	
Q. VII.	<p>Attempt <u>ANY ONE</u> of the two in about 50 words:</p> <p>In a recent survey it was found that your city has the highest rate of pollution in the country. Innumerable vehicles on the road and lack of green cover have made the air unfit to breathe. Draft a poster in about 50 words, creating awareness about the need to keep your city clean and green. You are Rakhsita/Rohit of MVN Public School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Publicly we proclaim that dowry is an evil. Privately parents want their sons to fetch good dowries. Right from our school days we should be taught that demanding and even giving dowry is not only illegal but immoral too. Draw a poster in about 50 words highlighting dowry as a curse. You are Vikram/Sonia.</p>	3 Marks
Q.VIII.	<p>Attempt <u>ANY ONE</u> of the two in about 120-150 words:</p> <p>The use of tobacco in cigarettes and other forms is a great health hazard. People do not pay much heed even to the statutory warning on cigarette packs. On the occasion of No Tobacco Day write a speech in about 120-150 words about the hazards of tobacco. You are Shalini/Suraj of Greenfields Public School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>	5 Marks



Due to the incessant rains during the past few weeks, the Army has launched 'Operation Megh Rahat' in Naoshera, Rajouri, Thanamandi and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir in coordination with the civil authorities for search, rescue and relief of people. Taking cue from the above picture, write a speech in about 120-150 words to be given during the Independence Day programme in your school, applauding the role of the army and the need to boost their morale. You are Shamil/Sunidhi of Delhi Public School.

Q. IX. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 120-150 words:

5 Marks

Although students have been using cell phones consistently in their daily lives for almost a decade, schools continue to resist allowing the devices into the classroom. Schools generally grapple with new technologies, but cell phones' reputation as a nuisance and a distraction has been hard to dislodge. Write a debate in about 120-150 words in favour of or against the cell phone being allowed in schools.

OR

Some people feel that the newspapers will become a thing of the past soon due to the increasing interest for electronic media. Write a debate in 150-200 words either in favour of or against the topic Electronic media. You are Parth / Parnika

SECTION D – LITERATURE

31Marks

Q. X. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given

1X3=3

A.

*"Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings
She launches away, towards the infinite
And the laburnum subsides to empty."*

	<p>(i) How does the departure of the goldfinch affect the atmosphere of the laburnum tree?</p> <p>(ii) What does the phrase “<i>eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings</i>” suggest?</p> <p>a. The harsh cry of the bird b. The soft, musical sounds of the bird c. The silence of the tree d. The rustling of leaves</p> <p>(iii) Assertion (A): The goldfinch’s departure symbolizes the end of activity in the tree. Reason (R): The laburnum tree is dependent on the bird for its liveliness.</p> <p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>“And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower, Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated: I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain, Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea.”</i></p> <p>B.</p> <p>(i) Identify the poetic device used in the line “I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain.”</p> <p>(ii) Complete the sentence. The word “impalpable” mean _____ in the context of the poem.</p> <p>(iii) What does the poet mean by “Poem of Earth”?</p>	
Q. XI.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given	1X3=3
A.	<p><i>By now we could see snow-capped mountains gathering on the horizon. We entered a valley where the river was wide and mostly clogged with ice, brilliant white and glinting in the sunshine. The trail hugged its bank, twisting with the meanders as we gradually gained height and the valley sides closed in.</i></p> <p>(i) The word "clogged" means _____ in the context of the extract.</p> <p>(ii) How does the extract show that the narrator is in a place which is extremely cold and at high-altitude?</p> <p>(iii) How does the author create a sense of beauty and contrast in the extract?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>	

<p>B.</p>	<p><i>After Akhenaten's death, a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace. And then a very young Tutankhaten took the throne – King Tut as he's widely known today. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, living image of Amun, and oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He reigned for about nine years - and then died unexpectedly.</i></p> <p>(i) The statement "appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace" is the same as</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> had a small role his stage performance was average he ruled for a short time only his reign was short and without any impact <p>(ii) The expression "oversaw a restoration of the old ways" means _____.</p> <p>(iii) What does the expression "took the throne" refer to?</p>	
<p>Q. XII.</p>	<p>Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given</p>	<p>1X4=4</p>
<p>A.</p>	<p><i>He could not walk and could not see, So old (and therefore wise) was he- But in a quavering voice he said, 'The culprit must be punished. Truly, the arch it was that banged The crown is off, and it must be hanged'. To the scaffold the arch was led When suddenly a Councillor said – 'How can we hang so shamefully What touched your head, Your Majesty?'</i></p> <p>(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. The word '<i>culprit</i>' means_____.</p> <p>(ii) Identify the lines from the extract which describe the physical condition of 'he'.</p> <p>(iii) What was ironic about the decision made by him?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Though wisest yet he gave the worst advice Though wisest yet he gave the best advice Though wisest yet he gave better advice None of these <p>(iv) Why did the councillor object to the advice?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Mrs. Fitzgerald: Let'em wait or look after themselves for once. This is where your foot goes down. Start now. [She lights a cigarette from the one she has just finished.]</p> <p>Mrs. Pearson: [Embarrassed] Mrs. Fitzgerald—I know you mean well—in fact, I agree with you— but I just can't—and it's no use trying to make me. If I promise</p>	

	<p>you I'd really have it out with them, I know I wouldn't be able to keep my promise. Mrs. Fitzgerald: Then let me do it.</p> <p>Mrs. Pearson [Flustered]: Oh no—thank you very much, Mrs. Fitzgerald—but that wouldn't do at all. It couldn't possibly be somebody else— they'd resent it at once and wouldn't listen— and really I couldn't blame them. I know I ought to do it— but you see how it is? [She looks apologetically across the table, smiling rather miserably.]</p> <p>Mrs. Fitzgerald [Coolly]: You haven't got the idea.”</p> <p>(i) What is the contrast in the personalities of the two women?</p> <p>(ii) “This is where your foot goes down” means _____.</p> <p>(iii) What does Mrs. Fitzgerald mean by ‘let me do it’? Select the option that explains it.</p> <p>a. She wants to confront Mrs. Pearson's family</p> <p>b. She has an unusual solution to the problem</p> <p>c. It is unclear that she wants to help</p> <p>d. She wants to teach confrontational skills to Mrs. Pearson</p> <p>(iv) Assertion (A): The character of Mrs. Pearson is initially portrayed as timid and submissive. Reason (R): Her family dominates her because she never asserts her own needs or opinions.</p> <p>Options:</p> <p>a. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).</p> <p>b. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).</p> <p>c. (A) is true, but (R) is false.</p> <p>d. (A) is false, but (R) is true.</p>	
Q. XIII.	Answer ANY TWO of the following four questions in about 40-50 words:	3X2=6
1. 2. 3. 4.	<p>The Grandmother never complained about anything. Her patience was beyond any measure. Mention any two instances. (The Portrait of a Lady)</p> <p>What has not changed over the years? What does this suggest and symbolise? (A Photograph)</p> <p>‘I would have him prodigal’. What does the father mean by this? (Father to Son)</p> <p>Discuss the poet's journey from innocence to awareness as depicted in the poem "Childhood."</p>	
Q. XIV.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 40-50 words:	3X1=3
1. 2.	<p>Was the King ‘just and placid’ in The Tale of Melon City? Justify your answer.</p> <p>‘Have you returned?’ the woman inquired. ‘I had assumed that no one had returned.’ What does this statement reveal about the plot? (The Address)</p>	
Q.XV.	Answer ANY ONE out of two questions:	6
1.	<p>How can you say that Jonathan and Sue were brave children of a brave father? What was the impact of their reaction on their father? (We're Not Afraid to Die)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>	

2.	Gangadharpant could not help comparing the country he knew with what he was witnessing around him. Briefly explain in context of the plot, The Adventure.	
Q.XVI.	Answer ANY ONE out of two questions:	6
1.	Andrew's visit to the Morgan's home gave him pleasure and satisfaction that he had not achieved earlier. Justify. (Birth) OR Mourad seems to have a way with animals, birds and farmers. What other qualities does he have and what different values weave the fabric of his character? (The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)	
2.		