

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN BHOPAL REGION
CLASS-X- (2025-26)
I- PRE-BOARD EXAM
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE-Code No. 184
SET-A

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions carefully and follow them:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All of them are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections-
SECTION A- READING SKILLS
SECTION B- GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS
SECTION C- LITERATURE TEXTBOOK
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part.

SECTION A- READING SKILLS (20 marks)

Q.1 Read the following passage.

(1) For centuries, humans have looked at the night sky and wondered if life exists beyond Earth. Among all celestial bodies, Mars has fascinated scientists the most. Often called the "Red Planet," it shares several similarities with Earth—such as day length and seasonal changes—but also has harsh differences like thin atmosphere, extreme cold, and frequent dust storms.

(2) In recent decades, space agencies like NASA, ISRO, and private companies such as Space X have focused on Mars exploration. Robotic rovers have already sent back data on soil, rocks, and weather conditions, while orbiters map the planet's surface from above. These missions reveal that Mars once had rivers and lakes, suggesting it may have supported life in the past.

(3) The biggest challenge in colonizing Mars is its atmosphere. It is composed mostly of carbon dioxide and lacks sufficient oxygen. Temperatures can drop to -125°C at night, making survival impossible without advanced technology. Additionally, radiation from the Sun is much higher on Mars, as it lacks a protective magnetic field like Earth.

(4) Despite these difficulties, scientists are exploring innovative solutions. Greenhouses may be built to grow food, using recycled water and artificial light. Specially designed habitats could protect astronauts from radiation. Advanced rockets aim to reduce the travel time between Earth and Mars to just a few months.

(5) Private space exploration companies are fueling public imagination with promises of human settlements on Mars within this century. Elon Musk's Space X, for example, has proposed building self-sustaining cities with renewable energy sources. While these ideas sound futuristic, they highlight humanity's determination to look beyond Earth.

(6) Critics, however, argue that investing billions in Mars colonization ignores urgent issues on Earth—such as poverty, pollution, and climate change. They believe resources should first focus

on saving our home planet before dreaming of another.

(7) Whether Mars becomes humanity's second home or remains a distant dream, the fascination with the Red Planet reflects human curiosity, resilience, and the endless desire to explore the unknown.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

I - The central idea of the passage is: (1)

- a) Mars exploration shows human courage and curiosity despite challenges
- b) Mars is already ready for human settlement
- c) Exploring Mars is more important than solving Earth's problems
- d) Rovers have discovered aliens on Mars

II - Which discovery suggests Mars may have supported life in the past? (1)

- a) Its thin atmosphere
- b) Rivers and lakes that once existed
- c) Dust storms
- d) Radiation levels

III - What is the main obstacle in colonizing Mars? (1)

- a) Lack of mountains
- b) Long travel time
- c) Harsh atmosphere and radiation
- d) Absence of robots

IV - The term "self-sustaining cities" on Mars refers to: (1)

- a) Cities dependent on Earth for survival
- b) Cities powered by renewable resources and local production
- c) Cities floating above Mars' surface
- d) Temporary shelters for astronauts

V - Which is NOT a challenge mentioned about living on Mars? (1)

- a) Extreme cold
- b) Lack of oxygen
- c) High radiation
- d) Overpopulation

VI - What does the passage suggest about Elon Musk's vision for Mars? (1)

- a) It is entirely impossible
- b) It is a futuristic yet ambitious plan

I -Why did the study most likely focus on the two specific age groups of 11–13 and 14–17? (Paragraph 1) (1)

This is so because these age groups ____.

- A. represent learners actively shaping their study habits.
- B. are the only students using online learning.
- C. were easiest to monitor through apps.
- D. avoid traditional classrooms entirely.

II -Identify the phrase in paragraph 1 that conveys the writer’s reference to patterns or preferences in students’ learning habits. (1)

III -Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (Paragraph 2)

Rohit, aged 12, enjoys lessons with pictures and games. He is most likely to prefer online platforms because the ____ (animations / discipline) make learning engaging. (1)

IV -What does the writer mean by “peer interaction” while describing classroom learning? (Paragraph 2) (1)

V -Complete the following with the correct option. (1)

When the writer says “preferences shifted more towards technology” (Paragraph 3), s/he means that ____.

- A. Older students fully abandoned classroom learning.
- B. Older students used more online resources compared to younger ones.
- C. Only younger students used video tutorials.
- D. Online classes replaced textbooks completely.

VI -Complete the following appropriately. (1)

One likely reason why some older students still preferred printed material during exam preparation, despite the availability of online resources, is (Paragraph 3)

VII -How are “flexibility” and “recorded lectures” connected? (Paragraph 3) (1)

VIII -Elaborate how hybrid learning models would help both students and educators. (Paragraph 4) (2)

IX -Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph 4) (1)

Understanding student preferences helps educators design systems that are both ____ as well as sustainable.

SECTION B- GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (20 marks)

GRAMMAR

Q.3 - Complete ANY TEN of the following tasks, as directed.

(10 marks)

1. Teacher: "Don't forget to submit your projects by Friday." How would you report the teacher's instruction to your classmates?

2. Spot the error and correct it. Justify your correction.

Neither the principal nor the teachers was in favour of conducting the event in late evening.

3. Fill in the blank with the correct verb form:

If she _____(practice) harder, she could have won the championship.

4. Choose the correct option and explain why:

_____honesty is valued more than cleverness in the long run.

(a) The

(b) An

(c) A

(d) No article

5. Choose the correct option and explain:

One of the most talented players in the team _____injured.

(a) is

(b) are

(c) will

(d) be

6. Fill in the blank with the correct word form:

He was the only one who _____(be) able to answer all the questions correctly.

7. Maya: "Why didn't you inform me about the meeting yesterday?" Riya:

"I thought you already knew about it."

How would you report this exchange to a teacher?

8. Correct the errors in the following:

Economics are a difficult subject, but it require patience and practice.

9. Complete the sentence with correct reported speech:

Rahul: "Can you help me prepare for the debate tomorrow?"

I told Rahul that _____.

10. Identify the error and supply correction:

Each of the committee members have expressed their opinion strongly.

11. Rewrite the sentence using a modal verb to make it more polite: "You must lend me your notebook today."

12. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb:

By the time the principal arrived, the students _____(finish) decorating the hall.

WRITING

Q.4 Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120 words.

(5)

A) -Your school recently purchased a consignment of laboratory equipment from **Rama Suppliers Pvt. Ltd.** On opening the packages, you find that several items are either damaged or missing, and the equipment delivered does not match the specifications mentioned in your order. As the **Science Club Secretary**, write a letter within 120 words, of complaint to the supplier, pointing out the issues, insisting on immediate replacement, and warning them of strict action if they fail to comply.

OR

B) You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. The school is organizing its **Annual Literary and Cultural Fest**, and you need to order customized mementos, certificates, and banners from **M/s Creative Prints, Bhopal**. Write a letter within 120 words, to the firm placing an order, specifying the quantity, quality, size, and design requirements. Also, request timely delivery within 10 days and mention that the payment will be made only after checking the items.

Q.5 A) The table below shows a SWOT Analysis of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Daily Life. Study it carefully and write an analytical paragraph. (word limit- 120 words) (5 marks)

STRENGTHS 1. Automates tasks efficiently 2. Saves time and increases accuracy 3. Available 24/7 (no fatigue)	WEAKNESSES 1. Over-dependence on machines 2. Job displacement fear 3. Lacks human emotions
OPPORTUNITIES 1. New careers in AI field 2. Smarter health care, education 3. Personalized learning and assistance	THREATS 1. Misuse for cybercrimes 2. Ethical concerns about privacy 3. Risk of replacing human judgement

While writing, **imagine yourself as a student in the year 2040** using AI daily. Describe not only the data in the table but also analyze:

I -How strengths and opportunities could make your life easier.

II -How weaknesses and threats might affect society if ignored.

III -Suggest what balance should be maintained between humans and AI.

OR

B) Two students, Nobita and Shizuka, had a classroom debate on the topic: “Should Social Media be Banned for Teenagers?”

Their main arguments are listed below:

Nobita’s Points (Against Ban)	Shizuka’s Points (For Ban)
1.Helps teenagers stay connected globally 2.Provides educational resources & awareness 3.Builds digital skills for the future 4.Can be controlled with parental guidance	1.Leads to addiction and time wastage 2.Affects mental health and sleep 3.Increases cyberbullying and privacy risks 4.Teenagers are too young to handle risks responsibly

Write an **analytical paragraph** evaluating who was the **better speaker** in the debate. Consider not just the number of points but their relevance, impact, and practicality.

SECTION C –LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

Q.6 Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. (5 marks)

A) “Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I have never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn’t matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest.”
(The Diary of Anne Frank)

I. Why does Anne call writing in a diary a ‘strange experience’?

- a) Because she disliked writing.
- b) Because she had never written anything before.
- c) Because she felt her diary would be published.
- d) Because she wanted to impress her teachers.

II. Which statement best explains Anne’s attitude towards diary writing?

- a) She was confident that her diary would interest everyone later.
- b) She thought no one, including herself, would care about her diary entries.
- c) She considered diary writing a school assignment.
- d) She believed her diary was a secret meant only for her family.

III. What can be inferred about Anne’s emotional state from this extract? (Answer in one line)

IV. Read the following expressions from the extract:

- i) musings
- ii) strange experience
- iii) off my chest
- iv) writing in a diary
- v) need

Select the option that correctly categorizes them into *thought-related* and *feeling-related* expressions.

No.	THOUGHT – RELATED	FEELING – RELATED
A	i, iv	ii, iii, v
B	ii, iii	i, iv, v
C	i,ii	iii, iv, v
D	i, iii, v	ii, iv

V. “I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest.”

What does the phrase ‘off my chest’ mean in this context?

- a) To express emotions and relieve oneself.
- b) To remove a physical burden.
- c) To hide one’s feelings from others.
- d) To make notes for school lessons.

OR

B) “THINK-TANK: Mirror, mirror, in my hand. Who is the most fantastically intellectually gifted being in the land?

OOPS: (aside) You, sir.

THINK-TANK: (smiling) Quite so. (He bows to himself in the mirror.) Now, contact the space probe. I want to invade that primitive ball of mud called Earth before lunch. I plan to make myself ruler of that planet. What do they call it, Captain Omega?

OMEGA: They call it Earth, sir. (The Book that saved the Earth)

I. What does the phrase ‘Mirror, mirror, in my hand’ reveal about Think-Tank’s personality?

- a) He is humble and grounded.
- b) He is vain and self-obsessed.
- c) He is nervous and insecure.
- d) He is wise and thoughtful.

II. Why does Think-Tank want to invade Earth “before lunch”?

- a) To highlight his urgency and arrogance.
- b) Because Martians were running out of food.
- c) As Earth was considered the easiest planet to conquer.
- d) Because Omega ordered him to.

III. Which stage direction in the extract best shows Think-Tank’s pride?

- a) (aside)
- b) (smiling)
- c) (He bows to himself in the mirror.)
- d) (contact the space probe)

IV Read the following words from the extract:

- i) intellectually gifted
- ii) primitive ball of mud
- iii) ruler
- iv) contact
- v) planet

Select the option that correctly categorizes them into *self-praise* and *derogatory description*.

No.	SELF – PRAISE	DEROGATORY DESCRIPTION
A	i, iii	li

B	ii, v	i, iv, iii
C	i, ii	iii, iv
D	i, iv	ii, iii

V What does this extract mainly highlight about Think-Tank?

- a) His wisdom and ability to lead wisely.
- b) His arrogance and tendency to underestimate others.
- c) His concern for Martian soldiers' welfare.
- d) His respect for Earth and its people.

Q.7 Read the given extracts and answer ANY ONE of the two. (5 marks)

**A “Never shall a young man,
Thrown into despair by those great honey-coloured
Ramparts at your ear, love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair.”**

(For Anne Gregory)

I. What emotions are most appropriately conveyed by the phrases ‘*thrown into despair*’ and ‘*love you for yourself alone*’?

- i) disappointment
- ii) superficial attraction
- iii) genuine affection
- iv) sadness
- v) hope

Select the correct option.

- A. i, ii, iv
- B. ii, iii, v
- C. i, iii, v
- D. ii, iv

II. What does the reference to ‘*yellow hair*’ symbolize in the poem?

- a) Inner virtues and qualities.
- b) Superficial beauty and outward appearance.
- c) Eternal wisdom.
- d) Strength of character.

III. Which line from the extract suggests that love is often based on external appearance rather than inner worth? (Answer in one phrase)

IV. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence suitably:

The poet implies that Anne Gregory’s beauty may attract love, but not necessarily ____.

V. Which theme of the poem is highlighted in this extract?

- a) The fleeting nature of beauty.
- b) The importance of true, inner love over physical attraction.
- c) The power of youth and charm.
- d) The inevitability of despair in relationships.

OR

**B “Some say the world will end in
fire, Some say in ice.**

**From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire."**

(Fire and Ice)

I. What emotions are most appropriately conveyed by the words '*fire*' and '*desire*' in the extract?

- i) passion ii) greed iii) anger iv) ambition
v) hatred

Select the correct option.

- A. i, ii, iii B. i, iii, iv C. ii, iv, v D. i, ii, iv

II. What does the poet mean by '*tasted of desire*'?

- a) He has experienced the power of human passion and wants more of it.
b) He believes that strong desires can destroy relationships and even the world.
c) He feels desire is harmless and necessary in life.
d) He thinks desire is similar to wisdom.

III. Which line from the extract shows the poet's personal choice about how the world might end? (Answer in one line)

IV. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence suitably:

In this stanza, *fire* is used as a metaphor for human ____.

V. Which central theme of the poem is highlighted in this extract?

- a) The destructive nature of human emotions.
b) The beauty of nature's elements.
c) The importance of love in human life.
d) The scientific causes of the world's end.

Q.8 -Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words. (4 x 3 marks)

I) Mandela says, "*Courage is not the absence of fear—it's inspiring others to move beyond it.*" How does this redefine our common idea of courage?

II) The poet compares fog to a cat. How does this unusual imagery change the way we perceive nature?

III) The play "The Proposal" is filled with arguments over petty issues like land and dogs. What deeper message about human relationships does Chekhov convey through this humor?

IV) Anne calls her diary "a friend in isolation." What does this reveal about the importance of self-expression during difficult times?

V) In the poem by Rich, trees struggle to move out of the house into the open. How is this a metaphor for human desire for freedom and change?

Q.9 - Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words. (2x3 marks)

I) -Bholi, once considered a simpleton, shows remarkable courage and self-respect at the time

of her marriage. What does her transformation teach us about the power of education?

II) -Matilda's desire to appear rich and glamorous cost her ten years of hardship. Do you think her suffering was a result of fate or her own choices? Give reasons.

III) -Hari Singh betrayed Anil's trust but later felt guilty and returned to him. What does this incident show about the role of kindness in reforming a person?

Q.10 Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words. (1x 6 marks)

A) Imagine a dialogue between **Gautama Buddha** and **Valli** where they share their life experiences. Buddha explains the inevitability of death and the importance of detachment, while Valli narrates how witnessing the dead cow made her realize the seriousness of life.

As a student, write this conversation bringing out the **common lesson** that both of them teach—that life must be accepted with courage, maturity, and understanding.

OR

B) In both *The Tale of Custard the Dragon* and *The Black Aeroplane*, the central characters face situations that test their courage. Custard proves his bravery when danger arrives, while the narrator of *The Black Aeroplane* is saved by an unknown helper in a life-threatening situation. **What do these stories teach us about the real meaning of bravery and help in times of crisis? Discuss with reference to both texts.**

Q.11- Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words. (1x 6marks)

A) The Martians in the play *The Book That Saved the Earth* completely misunderstood the Earthlings' book of nursery rhymes, which finally led them to abandon their plans of invading Earth.

Imagine you are a Martian historian writing years later about this incident. Write a detailed account highlighting what lessons Martians should learn from this mistake and how proper understanding and communication could have changed the course of events.

OR

B) Griffin misused the power of invisibility for selfish and destructive purposes. Imagine you are a modern scientist who has just invented a new technology with the potential to change the world. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic:

“Power and Responsibility: Lessons from Griffin's Life”

In your article, highlight how scientific discoveries should be used ethically, the dangers of misusing knowledge, and the responsibility that comes with great power. (FORMAT: Write Heading and Your Name)
