

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

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.

(10 marks)

(1) In this jet age, everyone is interested in making easy money. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days, life has become easier and more comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making the people develop the mindset to have anything immediately without waiting for it –even at the traffic signals.

(2) Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up. Things should be easy.

(3) Late is too short, and there is not enough time to do all the things we want to. We tend to compare with others and get upset when they seem to be doing well and start believing God is being too kind to them and not to us. And so, we give up. But such thinking serves no purpose. It doesn't solve the problem.

(4) Real success and happiness come to those who have a bread-making' attitude. I am talking for those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour-whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even spirituality -it is a long arduous journey.

(5) We can get results only if we are willing to spend time, put in painstaking effort and have faith. If we don't accept this difficult but true fact of life, our lives will be far from

being happy and fulfilling. For we may not make that extra effort which can change the course of life dramatically for our benefit.

(6) However, if we just pause to analyse what we are doing, we will realise how much time we are wasting searching for such magical solutions that simply do not exist. We actually save time when we stop this futile search and accept the proven methods of treading the straight and narrow path however difficult it may seem initially.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(I) -Select the option that best reflects the author's attitude towards people who give up easily: 1

- (a) The author admires them for recognizing their limitations.
- (b) The author is critical of them for not valuing perseverance.
- (c) The author is not critical of them for not valuing perseverance.
- (d) The author glorifies them for recognizing their limitations.

(II) -What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from **paragraph (3)**?
Rationalise your response in about 40 words. 2
Life is too short and there is not enough time to do all the things we want to.

(III)- Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. 1
In the line, 'Nothing is instantaneous.' the word 'instantaneous.' refers to the _____. (paragraph 4)

- (a) results that are achieved immediately without any delay or effort
- (b) process of waiting for a long time before achieving any result
- (c) gradual development of skills and success through persistent effort.
- (d) need for complex methods and strategies to solve problems effectively.

(IV) -Complete the following with the correct option from the two givens: 1
Real success and happiness come to those who have a 'bread-making attitude because _____.

- (a) they are willing to put in the time and effort, understanding that results require perseverance and patience.
- (b) they believe that shortcuts and instant solutions are the keys to success and happiness

(V) -The writer mentions 'real success' in paragraph 4. Which of the following is an example of real success? 1

- (a) Achieving a high level of skill or accomplishment after years of dedicated practice and effort.
- (b) Quickly gaining fame and recognition through shortcuts or luck
- (c) Securing an easy promotion without putting in significant work or facing challenges.
- (d) Receiving immediate praise and rewards without any substantial effort or persistence.

(VI) - Support the writer's idea that determination to persist in your startup despite initial challenges analogous to the 'bread making attitude'?" 2

(VII)- In the passage 6, what message does the line, "However, if we just pause to analyse what we are doing, we will realise how much time we are wasting searching for such magical solutions which simply do not exist." convey? 1

(VIII)- State whether the following statement is True or False. 1
The passage displays an example of expository text.

Q.2 - Read the passage given below: -

(10 marks)

(1) The North-East of India is a melting pot of variegated cultural mosaic of people and races, an ethnic tapestry of many hues and shades. Yet, these states are less explored as compared to the rest of the country. The new generations of travellers who are 'money rich and time poor' are increasingly looking for unique experiences —a phenomenon being called the emergence of the 'experience economy'. For this new and growing breed of tourists, the North-East with its variety and uniqueness hold immense attraction.

(2) A study conducted in 2020 by Dr. Sherap Bhutia, revealed that the foreign tourist arrival in the North East increased from 37,380 people in 2005 to 118,552 in 2014. The overall (I) The North-East of India witnessed growth rate of tourists (both domestic and foreign) in the North-East was as high as 26.44% during 2005-06. A high and positive growth of 12.53% was registered in foreign tourist visits to the North-East States of India during 2012 and 2011, which further rose to register a growth of 27.93% during 2012 - 2013. Foreign tourist arrivals in the North East witnessed a growth of 39.77% during 2013-2014 according to data provided from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

(3) The study recommendations for tourism planners included the need to concentrate on some key areas, like the enhancement of tourist facilities, tourism financing, focus on community involvement and others for the formulation of a sustainable tourism strategy in the North-East States of India.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(A) -On the basis of your reading of paragraph 1, state the characteristics of the new generation of travellers, and how do they impact their choices in destinations? 1

(B)- Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 1.

The statement that, for this new and growing breed of tourists, the North East with its variety and uniqueness holds immense attraction. is a (fact/ opinion) because it is a
(subjective judgement / objective detail). 1

(C) - Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of the passage.

Just as a beautiful bouquet of flowers the senses of a person, the variety and uniqueness of the North Eastern states attract the 'money rich and time poor' tourists. 1

(D) - Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage?

(I) The North-East of India witnessed a significant decline in foreign tourist arrivals during the study period.

(II) The overall growth rate of tourism in the North-East states was higher than the national average during the study period.

(III) The emergence of the 'experience economy' had no impact on the travel preferences of the new generation of tourists.

(IV) The North-Eastern states' tourism strategy focuses on mass tourism and conventional destinations.

(a) Only (II)

(b) Only (III)

(c) Only (I) and (III)

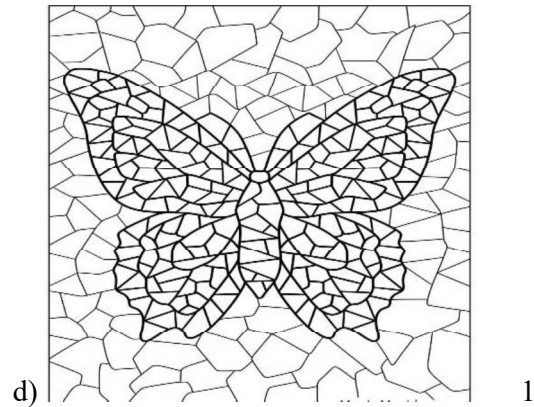
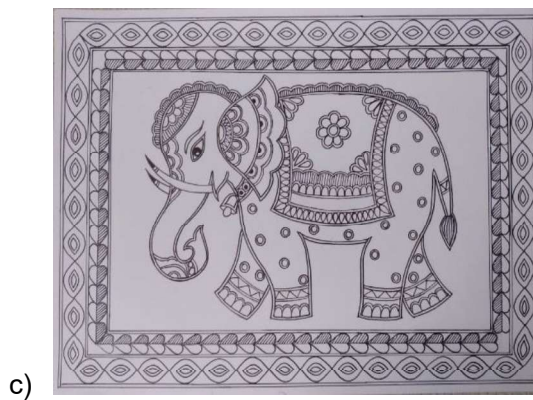
(d) Only (III) and (IV) 1

(E) - Imagine you are visiting the north eastern state of Assam for the first time with your cousins. You are captivated by the beauty of the state, and you are pretty sure that this will be a unique experience for you.

(1) How would you identify the culture of people in Assam? 1

(2) The passage employs the metaphor of a "melting pot" to convey the idea that different cultural elements blend together in the North-East. Justify. 1

(F) - Select the option that correctly displays what 'mosaic' signifies.
(Reference-Paragraph 1)



(G) - Infer one benefit and one drawback of being 'money rich and time poor'
Answer in about 40 words. 2

(H) -According to the data in the passage, Foreign tourist arrivals in the North-East witnessed a growth of 39.77% during 2014. State one inference that can be drawn from this. 1

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

GRAMMAR

(10 marks)

Q.3 - Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

I. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket given: 1
Had they not _____ (see) the punctured tire we would have met with an accident.

II. Identify and correct the error in the given sentence taken from an online news report: 1

The team of doctors are working on a new treatment for the disease.

Error	Correction
a) Doctors	Doctor
b) are	Is
c) working	Worked
d) treatments	Treatment

III. Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets. 1

I'm so happy to see my plants again! They _____(grow) so much since I last saw them.

- a) has grown c) have grown
b) has grow d) have grew

IV. Which option displays the correct change of the following to reported speech? 1

He said to me, "Do you have a paper?"

- a) he told me to have a paper. b) he ordered me to have a paper.
c) he asked me if I had a paper. d) he enquired me to have a paper.

V. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the conclusion of a letter of placing order. 1

There would be no compromise _____ the quality of items supplied.

- A. regards B. regard C.regardless D. regarding

VI. Report the dialogue between Lata and Usha, by completing the sentence: 1

Lata: What activity did you enjoy the most in the summer camp?

Usha: I enjoyed the art and craft class.

Lata asked Usha what activity she had enjoyed the most in the summer camp.

Usha replied that she _____

VII. Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a fitness product advertisement. 1

“Using a revolutionary new treadmill for just 10 minutes a day have shown significant results in as little as two weeks.”

Error	Correction
a) have	Has
b) little	Less
c) weeks	Week
d) shown	Shows

VIII. Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with the correct option. 1

The speaker's story left the audience _____ and inspired.

- a) Motivates b) motivating c) motivated d) motivation

IX. Report the following question. 1

Tom said to her sister, "Did you see my new toy car?"

X. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1

The art class requires a sketching kit, and students can purchase _____ (this/ that) from the school Store.

XI. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence in a teacher's diary by choosing the correct option. 1

The librarian informed that there were hardly _____ books left on the science shelf.

- a) some b) any c) much d) many

XII. Choose the correct option to fill the blank. 1

I looked inside the bucket and saw there was _____ water in it, so they had to add more to use.

- a) little b) any c) few d) least

WRITING

Q.4-A] You are Aman / Amrita Singh of 54, Green Avenue, Amritsar. You have received a letter from your cousin, who is studying at Sunshine international School, Shimla. He has written to you about the poor quality of food served in the school mess, which has caused food poisoning for several students. Write a letter to Principal of the school, requesting immediate action to improve the quality of food served in the mess.

OR

B] You are Vijay Kumar, a farmer from Punjab. Write a letter to the editor of The Tribune, Chandigarh, addressing the issue of poor soil health due to overuse of chemical fertilizers. Suggest sustainable farming practices and the importance of organic fertilizers to maintain soil fertility.

5

Q.5 - A] With the help of the given table, write an analytical paragraph in about 100 words on 'Rising Prices'.

Food items	February 2020	February 2021	February 2022
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Groundnut oil (per liters)	90	105	125
Rice (per kg)	30	40	60
Flour (per kg)	28	31	35
Toor daal (per kg)	54	65	80

OR

B] Jaspreet, class X, is known for her creativity, excellent communication skills, and ability to think outside the box. However, she sometimes struggles with time management and prefers collaborative efforts over working solo. She has been assigned an art-integrated project presentation and must choose a partner from Sunaina, Tabassum, and Alice. Below are the profiles of the three candidates.

Sunaina: Sunaina is highly disciplined and excels in meeting deadlines. She is known for her strong organizational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks efficiently. However, she is slightly reserved and prefers working in structured, predictable environments.

Tabassum: Tabassum is enthusiastic and spontaneous, with a talent for generating unique ideas. She is an excellent artist and thrives in creative settings. However, she occasionally struggles to stay focused on tasks and complete them on time.

Alice: Alice is confident and articulate, with a flair for delivering polished presentations. She is detail-oriented and ensures that the final product is of high quality. However, she sometimes prefers to take control and may overlook collaborative efforts.

Based on the features of each candidate, analyse and decide who would be the best partner for Jaspreet. Consider aspects such as complementary strengths, teamwork, and the project's requirements.

5

SECTION C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

Q.6 -Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.

5

A] When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said: "God: Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks, Lencho.

(A Letter to God)

i) What was the most likely response that the postmaster expected in Lencho's second letter? 1

(1) sorrowful (2) gratitude (3) disappointment (4) elation (5) shock

a) 2 and 5 b) 1 and 3 c) 2 and 4 d) 3 and 5

ii) Why did the postmaster rush to open the letter sent by Lencho? 2

iii) Read a) - c) and pick the most suitable quote for this extract. 1

a) "It is easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled." - Mark Twain

b) "Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance. – Confucius

c) "True generosity means accepting ingratitude." -Coco Chanel

iv) How much money did Lencho receive? 1

OR

B] Historian: ...You haven't heard about the Martian invasion of 2040? Tsk, tsk. What do they teach children nowadays? Well, you know, the invasion never really happened, because a single book stopped it. What was the book, you ask? A noble encyclopedia? A tome about rockets and missiles? A secret file from outer space? No, it was none of those. It was — but here, let me turn on the hysteroscope and show you what happened many centuries ago, in 2040. *(She turns on projector, and points it left. Spotlight on Historian goes out...)*

(The Book That saved the Earth)

I) What does the pause indicated by the dash in the line 'It was — but here, let me turn on the hysteroscope and show you' convey? 1

i) a sense of impatience and frustration.

ii) a point of suspense and anticipation

iii) a moment of confusion and hesitation

iv) a sudden shift to lightheartedness

v) a reflective moment of deep thought

A. i, ii, v, B. Only ii, C.iii and iv, D. Only v

II) How do the stage directions, such as 'Historian turns on projector' and 'Spotlight on Historian goes out,' contribute to the atmosphere and understanding of the scene in this part of the play? 2

III) Select the option that correctly completes the following. 1

The Historian dismisses the noble encyclopedia and rockets because she wants to ____

a) convey the importance of scientific knowledge and military power in stopping the invasion.

b) stress the surprising and unexpected nature of the book that stopped the invasion.

IV) What emotion is the Historian most likely conveying with the phrase 'Tsk, tsk'? 1

Q.7 - Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. 5

A] He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,

The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
 Knowing what every man must one day know
 And most know many days, how to stand up.

(The Ball Poem)

- I) What emotions are most appropriately conveyed by the phrase 'desperate eyes' and 'epistemology of losses'? 1
 i) Despair, ii) Anger, iii) Frustration, iv) Confusion, v) Helplessness

Select the correct option.

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

II) What does the phrase 'how to stand up' suggest about the boy's emotional growth? 2

III) Which phrase from the extract conveys the poet's idea that loss is universal? 1

IV) Fill in the blank with a phrase to suitably complete the sentence. 1
 The loss of his ball symbolizes _____ in life.

OR

B] Or if some time when roaming round,
 A noble wild beast greets you,
 With black stripes on a yellow ground,
 Just notice if he eats you.
 This simple rule may help you learn
 The Bengal Tiger to discern.

(How to tell Wild Animals)

I) What does the poet imply by referring to the Bengal Tiger as a 'noble wild beast'? 1

- A. The tiger is majestic and dignified despite its ferocity.
 B. The tiger is kind and considerate toward humans.
 C. The tiger has a royal lineage and should be revered.
 D. The tiger is a symbol of fear and destruction.

II) Complete the following suitably. 1
 The word 'ground' in the line 'With black stripes on a yellow ground' refers to _____.

III) How does the poet use humour in the description of the Bengal Tiger? 2

IV) Identify the phrase in the poem that is advisory in nature. 1

Q.8 - Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 50 words each.

(4X3 marks=12)

I] -How does the description of the Coorg Regiment instill a sense of pride in the community? 3

II] - How does the use of repetition in the poem 'Amanda!' highlight the speaker's expectations and Amanda's responses? 3

III] - How can Mandela's reflection on South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy help modern societies understand the role of oppression in shaping collective national values? (Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom) 3

IV] - How does the line 'and then moves on' reflect the transient nature of the fog thereby contributing to the poem's deeper message about life's impermanence? (Fog) 3

V] How does Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values? (The Proposal)

Q.9 -Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words (2X3 marks =6)

I] - How does the line, "Not from weeping nor from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind" reflect the transient nature of life thereby contributing to the story's deeper message about life and death? (The Sermon at Benares) 3

II] - Briefly evaluate the validity of the adage 'Values are caught, not taught', in the context of the relationship between Anil and Hari Singh in 'The Thief's Story'. 3

III] Briefly evaluate how Matilda's choices in "The Necklace" reflects the idea that chasing superficial values can lead to lasting consequences. 3

Q.10 -Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1X6 marks=6)

A] How does literature like 'The Baker from Goa,' 'Coorg,' and 'Tea from Assam' contribute to promoting tourism and raising awareness about regional cultures and traditions? 6

OR

B] The poems, 'Dust of Snow' and 'Fire and Ice' explore how natural elements influence human emotions and thoughts in different ways. Examine. 6

Q.11 -Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1X6=6)

A] How does the author use the narrative technique of misdirection in 'The Midnight Visitor', to enhance the suspense and the story's unexpected ending? 6

OR

B] Comment critically on the role of the Surgery in the 'The Triumph of Surgery'. 6