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PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION

SESSION: 2025-26

CLASS-X

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)

Time- 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks:80 Marks

General Instructions:

Read the instructions carefully and follow them:

1. The question paper is comprised of three sections :
Section- A : Reading
Section- B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section-C: Literature
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20Marks)

1. Read the following text carefully.

10

1. A youngster quit Facebook in December after spending over three years on the social networking site. With that one act, he bid a silent adieu to more than 300 contacts that he had added to his account during the period. Like almost everyone from his “ friends’ circle,” the 20 year-old was a regular on the service; visiting it everyday to post photos and status updates but last week a new feature on Facebook called Timeline forced him to reconsider the pros and cons of being on the networking site.
2. Everyone has some skeletons in their closet and I am just not comfortable with Facebook digging up and displaying all the facets of my life on a bulletin board,” says this youngster who joined the network in July 2007, while he was in class 11th .
3. Facebook, you see, had compressed the time he spent on the site and arranged it in chronological order. While he initially liked the new neatly organized scrapbook- like feature wasn’t happy to reveal posts from the past until recently were hidden under layers of recent updates. Just clicking on a date on the timeline could transport his friends back in time and enable them to view every embarrassing comment link or photo he had posted on his profile.
4. “ I think it’s a recipe for disaster ,” he says. “ In 2007, I had some wall posts which seemed appropriate at the time but now after a lapse of four years, I have moved on and don’t want them to be openly displayed for all to see.”
5. He is not alone . Many users , worried about how the Facebook activity could possibly affect their offline lives, are choosing to commit “ Facebook suicide.” While some have privacy concerns , others feel that the site meant to bring them closer to their friends actually does the opposite -it reduces their friendship to something superficial.
6. Poking and liking are not enough to keep a friendship going,’ says a business analyst. Having quit Facebook three years ago , she prefers meeting her “real” friends face- to -face , instead of reading their trite posts online

. “On Facebook , people hype everyday issues including what they ate and where they went on a daily basis,” says this analyst who continues to use Twitter.

7. “Facebook has become a time sink and it could not justify the time I spent on it,” he says,” I spend more time calling up friends or relatives over the phone nowI also go out and meet people whenever possible and have a good offline life . I do not regret the change. “ Today , Facebook has 800 million users of which 37 million are Indians. The site has become an online identity for most , and many of those who decided to quit cannot overcome the withdrawal symptoms and return. Facebook, fully aware of its addictive powers , facilitates this return by allowing users to ‘deactivate’ their accounts but continues to store information on its servers so that they can return from their ‘break’ , whenever they wish.

Answer the following questions , based on the passage above

- I. Based on your reading of the text, list any two disadvantages of the social media site Facebook. 1
- II. Which of the following statements best describes the reason for the youngsters’ reaction to the posts he made in the past? 2
- a) He was embarrassed of the posts.
b) He was reminded of the bitter past.
c) He felt it necessary.
d) He did not want to be reminded of the past.
- III. How long had the youngster been on Facebook before quitting? 1
- a) Two years
b) Three years
c) More than three years
d) Four years
- IV. Which new Facebook feature made the youngster reconsider his presence on the platform? 1
- a) News feed
b) Messenger
c) Timeline
d) Wall
- V. Analyse the relationship between the words “quit” and “delete” in the context of social media. 1
- VI. “The youngster quit Facebook because he was addicted to it.” 2
- VII. What can be inferred about the youngster’s values and priorities? 1
- a) He values online relationships over offline relationships
b) He prioritizes his online presence over his personal life
c) He values his personal boundaries and privacy
d) He is addicted to social media
- VIII. Analyse the cause and effect relationship between the introduction of the Timeline feature and the youngster’s decision to quit Facebook. 1

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 10 m

1. Feeling like there are too many pressures and demands on you, losing sleep, worrying about tests and school work, eating on the run because your schedule is just too busy, it’s all due to stress. Everyone experiences stress at times.
2. Modern life is full of hassles, deadlines, frustrations, and demands. For many people, stress is so commonplace that it has become a way of life. Stress like hunger and thirst is an inescapable part of life. Stress is a feeling that’s created when we react to particular events. It is a state of an organism where he perceived that his well being is endangered and that he must direct all his energies to its protection.
3. Stress is a normal physical response to events that make one feel threatened or upset the balance in some way. Stress occurs when pressure exceeds one’s perceived ability to cope. Left unmanaged when it prevails upon us it

gives us stressful mode of life. The term 'Exam Stress' can be broadly defined as a feeling of anxiety over one's performance in the exams, the results and reaction of parents and friends; all weigh upon students to create exam stress.

4. Many students find themselves weighed down by expectations. Comparisons, parental expectations and peer pressure are major concerns for students attempting their board exams. These concerns bog students down, leading to severe examination stress.
5. Exam stress is most apparent in children when they feel they have to 'prove themselves' and display their year's work in the pressured situation of a three hour exam. Lost appetites, under-confidence, nervousness, anxiety and even depression are no strangers to the youngsters who are conditioned to look upon the exams as the be-all. Small wonder then that the stress inflicted upon these hapless students has become quite a concern for parents, schools and society alike.
6. Another cause of stress is the students' inherent belief in their own capabilities. Given the hype and pressure created, it is easy to start doubting one's own capacity. Coupled with immense amounts of peer comparisons, large amounts of curricular material and long, continuous periods of focussed study, stress generation is inevitable. Students continually study and memorize large amounts of information. Then they undertake practice examinations, in which circumstantial factors can affect outcomes.
7. One minor mistake or poor performance and the student lose confidence, especially if comparisons are made with other classmates. If your child is facing an exam phobia, what he needs is your help and not a counselor as experts believe that parents are the best help a child could have to cope with stress and examination anxiety. How parents can help their children deal with exam stress, experts say that they should be supportive without being overbearing.
8. For starters, parents ought to confront their own fears. There is the overwhelming thought that one has gone through so much to bring the child to a particular level. They should understand that an exam is only a stepping stone, not the be all and end all.
9. The parents should bear in mind that counseling is a 'Helping relationship'. To counsel is to advice. Individuals seek advice in a variety of situations. It is evident that from the earliest times man has turned to his fellow beings for advice, encouragement, sympathy, comfort and understanding. In everyday life, we find counselling goes on at many levels- in a family set-up parents counsel their children, in society doctors counsel patients, lawyers clients, teachers students etc.

Answer the following questions:

I. What happens when pressure exceeds one's perceived ability to cope? 1

- a) Relaxation
- b) Stress
- c) Happiness
- d) Indifference

II. How would you describe the writer's tone in the passage? 1

- a) Authoritative and didactic
- b) Conversational and friendly
- c) Sarcastic and humorous
- d) Objective and informative

III. Compare and contrast the concept of stress with other physical and emotional stress with other physical and emotional responses, such as hunger and thirst. How are they similar, and how are they different? 2

IV. What can be inferred about the author's view on stress management ? 1

- a) Stress management is not important
- b) Stress management is crucial for a healthy life
- c) Stress management is only necessary for students
- d) Stress management is a one time effort.

V. Analyse the Assertion and Reason and choose the correct option after analysing it.

Assertion: Exam stress is a common experience for many students. 1

Reason: Exams can be a significant source of pressure and anxiety for students.

- a) Both assertion and reason are true, and reason is the correct explanation
- b) Both assertion and reason are true, but reason is not the correct explanation.
- c) Assertion is true, but reason is false
- d) Assertion is false, but reason is true

VI. What conclusions can be drawn about the potential consequences of chronic stress on an individual's quality of life? 1

VII. What message does the passage convey about stress? 1

- a) Stress is an unavoidable part of life that cannot be managed
- b) Stress is a minor issue that can be ignored
- c) Stress can be managed with effective coping mechanisms and strategies
- d) Stress only affects physical health

VIII. According to the passage, what is stress? 1

- a) A feeling of happiness and relaxation
- b) A normal physical response to events that make one feel threatened or upset the balance
- c) A type of mental illness
- d) A physical illness

IX. The term 'Exam Stress' can be broadly defined as _____ 1

- a) a feeling of excitement over exams
- b) a feeling of anxiety over one's performance in exams
- c) a type of physical illness
- d) a type of mental illness

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

Grammar (10 marks)

3. Answer any 10 questions only as per the direction.

(10X1=10)

I. Fill in the blank by choosing the most appropriate determiner.

Stress is _____ normal physical response to events that make one feel threatened or upset the balance.

- a) a
- b) an
- c) the
- d) no article

II. Which modal verb fits best in the blank?

You _____ try to learn a new language; it's a valuable skill." Which modal verb fits best in the blank?

- a) can
- b) should
- c) might
- d) would

III. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter.

This is with reference to the committee's letter of recommendation that(highlight) the nominations for 'Safe Residential Area' Award for this current year.

IV. By next year, I _____ (work) at this company for five years.

Which tense of the verb "work" fits best in the blank?

- a) will have worked
- b) have worked
- c) worked
- d) am working

V. Complete sentence using correct determiner.

The doctor recommended that I take _____ days off work to relax.

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

VI. Identify the error and supply the correction for the following

The teacher give us a lot of homework yesterday.

| Error | Correction |
|-------|------------|
| | |

VII. Which modal verb fits best in the blank to predict an outcome?

If I had more time, I _____ learn how to play the guitar.

- a) will
- b) would
- c) can
- d) might

VIII. Identify the errors and supply the correction in respect to subject-verb agreement.

Each of the employees have a unique skill set.

| Error | Correction |
|-------|------------|
| | |

IX. Which article fits best in the blank?

I'm going to _____ store to buy some milk.

- a) a
- b) an
- c) the
- d) no article

X. Convert the sentence into reported speech "What are you doing tonight?" asked Sarah.

Sarah asked what _____ doing that night.

XI. The letter pertaining to the purchase of new books for the library _____ to the chairman for approval.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.

- a) has forwarded
- b) has been forwarded
- b) are forwarded
- c) is forwarded

XII. Fill the blank by using the correct form of verb in the brackets.

Mr Sharma _____ (go) to Bangkok the next month for a business meeting with the company's new client in Thailand.

Writing (10 marks)

4. A .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 organisational 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 marks)

4.B .Read the product details on a label for a school bag:

ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOL BAG

- Made from recycled materials
- Ergonomic* design with padded shoulder straps and breathable mesh backpanel
- Spacious main compartment with multiple pockets and organisers
- Reflective strips for visibility and safety
- Water-resistant fabric
- Available in various vibrant colours and patterns

Now, analyse why this school bag would be a beneficial purchase. Write the analytical paragraph in 120 words, considering factors such as its eco-friendliness, comfort features, functionality, safety aspects, and design options.

Design that is intended to maximise comfort, efficiency, and safety for the user. (5 marks)

5.A.As Vaishali Nathani of 214, Indrayani Apartments, Vaishali Street, Daipur, you believe that forming Ecology clubs and appointing Eco-minders in your city can aid in the preservation and conservation of nature. Write a letter to the MLA of your city area, in about 120 words, suggesting the need to form such clubs. Share their importance and implications. Recommend the involvement of resident volunteers for implementation of eco-club activities that nurture and protect the local ecosystem.(5marks)

OR

5.B. You are Rohan Kumar of 212, Nupur Apartments, West Hill, Bhopal. Write a letter to the Editor, Ms.Rachel Brown of Daily Times, New Delhi, highlighting the issue of income inequality in the country and suggesting potential solutions. (5marks)

Section-C- Literature Textbook (40 marks)

6A. Read the given extracts and answer the question. (5 marks)

Brilliant scientist though he was, Griffin was rather a lawless person. His landlord disliked him and tried to eject him. In revenge Griffin set fire to the house, to get away without being seen he had to remove his clothes. Thus, It was that he became a homeless wanderer, without clothes, without money and quite invisible- until he happened to step in some mud and left footprints as he walked !

(Footprints without feet)

- I. What did Griffin do to escape after setting the house of his landlord to fire ? 1
- II. Why did Griffin remove his clothes? 1
- III. How can you say that Griffin was a brilliant scientist? 1
 - a) As he carried on various experiments.
 - b) As his experiments were used for common people.
 - c) As he had mad an incredible discovery
 - d) He could make himself invisible
- IV. How does Griffin's lawless attitude put him in trouble? 2

6.B The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky above me. There was not a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside.
(The Black Aeroplane-Two Stories About Flying)

- I. What is the significance of not a single cloud in the sky ? 1
- II. How did the pilot feel after calling the Paris Control the first time ? Answer in about 40 words . 2
- III. The pilot was flying a – 1
 - a) black aeroplane
 - b) Dakota aeroplane
 - c) Lockheed aeroplane
 - d) F-71 Bomber aeroplane
- IV. Read the following description (a) to (c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. 1
 - (a) A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.
 - (b) A description is the pattern of narrative development that aims to make vivid a place, object, character or group
 - (c) An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience , which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.

7A. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one of the two given.

An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
As he stands rigid, trembling , staring down
All his young days into the harbour where
His ball went . I would not intrude on him;
A dime , another ball , is worthless, Now
He senses first responsibility
In a world of possessions.
(The Ball Poem)

- I. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The mood of the boy in the extract is _____ 1
- II. What literary device has been used by the usage of 'ball' in the poem ?1
- III. Which ultimate grief has fixed the boy ?1
 - a)loss of his ballb)loss of his dear one c) loss of his toys d) none of these
- IV. A ball is an easily available , inexpensive thing. Then , why is the boy so sad to lose it ?2

7.B.

The true chameleon is small
A lizard sort of thing;
He hasn't any ears at all,
And not a single wing. If there is nothing in the tree,
'Tis the chameleon you see.
(**How To Tell Wild Animals**)

- I. Where do we find the chameleon ? 1
 - a) In a garden
 - b) On a tree
 - c) under the ground
 - d) nowhere

- II. Why can't the chameleon be seen on the tree ? 1
III. Describe a few characteristics of a chameleon in about 40 words . 2
IV. Identify the poetic device used in the line "If there is nothing on the tree 'tis the chameleon you see". 1

8. Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4x3= 12)

- I. Why was the site called "a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations"?
(Nelson Mandela- A Long Walk to Freedom)
- II. Justify the opinion that the traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society .
(Glimpses of India-I)
- III. Why did Anne think that she could confide more in her diary than in people?
(From The Diary of Anne Frank)
- IV. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter "God"?
(A Letter to God)
- V. What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for? Is he sincere when he says "And I have always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son" Find reasons from the play for your answer.
(The Proposal)

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. Each right answer carries three marks.
(2X3=6)

- I. Do you think Richard's mother was too indulgent when she bought him things like cameras, telescopes and microscopes? Give reasons to support your answer.
- II. How do you know that Tricky had an affluent life?
- III. Mention any two points of differences between Earthlings and Martians in the 20th Century.

10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the given two questions in about 100-120 words. (6marks)

- I. Hesitations and fears play necessary parts in human life but we get success in any enterprise only when we overcome our doubts, hesitations and fears. Justify this statement in light of the young seagull's efforts to muster the courage to fly in the air.
- II. The people and surroundings are a great book to learn. Valli in the lesson 'Madam Rides the Bus' learns a lot from others. Mention the traits of her character which help her to learn from her surroundings

11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the given two questions in about 100-120 words. (6marks)

- I. Bholi was believed to be a 'dumb cow'. Describe the events and mental state of Bholi. How did she transform into a fearless, bold and confident girl?
- II. Contentment in one's life is very important to lead a peaceful life. We should be happy with what we have and should not crave for what we don't have. Matilda suffered in life because she was not content in her life. Her desires led to her disaster. What do you learn from her mistake in life?

