

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN MUMBAI REGION

2nd Pre-Board Examination 2025-2026

Class: X

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE(CODE-184)

Time allowed:- 3Hours

Maximum Marks:80

General Instructions:-

Read the instructions very carefully and follow them strictly:

a) This question paper comprises **11 questions**. All questions are compulsory.

b) The question paper contains **Three Sections**.

Section - A: Reading Skills

Section – B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills.

Section – C: Literature Text Book

c) Attempt questions based on specific instruction for each part.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)

Q1. Read the following text.

10 Marks

Happiness has fascinated thinkers, poets, and philosophers for centuries, but only in the past few decades has it become a subject of serious scientific enquiry. Researchers in neuroscience and psychology argue that happiness is not merely an emotion but a carefully balanced state influenced by one's biology, environment and intentional actions.

Genetic factors account for nearly half of a person's natural predisposition to feel positive emotions. However, scientists emphasize that genes do not lock anyone into a fixed level of happiness. Instead, daily habits—such as practicing gratitude, nurturing relationships, exercising, and engaging in meaningful work—can significantly raise one's emotional well-being.

Experiences have a unique power in shaping long-term happiness. Studies reveal that people quickly adapt to material possessions; a new phone or outfit initially boosts excitement, but the feeling fades rapidly. On the other hand, experiences like travelling, learning a new skill, volunteering, or spending time in nature create strong emotional memories that last for years. These memories often connect individuals to others, fostering a sense of belonging.

Moreover, mindfulness practices such as meditation, mindful walking, and breathing exercises have been shown to reduce stress hormones. Neuroscientists have found that even brief moments of mindful attention strengthen neural pathways related to calmness and emotional balance.

In conclusion, researchers agree that happiness is not a final destination. It is a series of deliberate, consistent choices. By cultivating gratitude, staying connected with loved ones, and engaging in activities that spark joy, individuals can consciously design a life that supports long-term well-being.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- i) Which of these best captures the central idea of the passage? **(1 mark)**
A. Happiness is impossible without wealth
B. Happiness depends only on genetics
C. Happiness is influenced by a mix of biological and behavioral factors
D. Happiness is determined by meditation alone
- ii) Why does the author contrast material possessions with experiences? (40–50 words) **(2 marks)**
- iii) Complete the sentence:
Mindfulness reduces stress because it _____ . **(1 mark)**
- iv) True/False:
The passage suggests that happiness is the final destination. **(1 mark)**
- v) Identify the word in paragraph 3 that means “adjust or get used to”. **(1 mark)**
- vi) In what way do experiences contribute to human happiness? (40–50 words) **(2 marks)**
- vii) Which of the following is an example of a deliberate choice that improves happiness?
A. Ignoring relationships
B. Practicing gratitude
C. Buying expensive items frequently
D. Avoiding new experiences **(1 mark)**
- viii) The phrase “series of deliberate, consistent choices” suggests that happiness is _____ .
A. accidental
B. constructed over time
C. unpredictable
D. based on luck **(1 mark)**

Q2. Read the following text.

10 Marks

Concerned about rising academic stress and declining physical endurance among adolescents, a senior secondary school piloted an Integrated Sports and Learning Programme for Class X students. Unlike conventional sports periods, this programme was designed around structured training cycles, performance analysis, and reflective evaluation. Students were required to set personal fitness goals, analyse their progress using basic data, and reflect on how physical discipline influenced their learning habits.

Participation revealed unexpected outcomes. Students initially resistant to sports began to recognise patterns between regular physical activity and improved emotional regulation. During competitive situations, they learned to cope with failure, reassess strategies, and persist despite setbacks. Coaches

deliberately limited external rewards, emphasising intrinsic motivation, ethical conduct, and long-term growth over immediate success.

Teachers later reported that students involved in the programme demonstrated greater self-discipline, improved focus during lessons, and a more balanced response to academic pressure. Some students who rarely spoke in class emerged as confident decision-makers during team discussions, suggesting that competencies developed on the field were transferring to cognitive and social domains. The school concluded that sports, when integrated with reflective and analytical practices, function as a powerful tool for holistic education rather than mere physical recreation.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- i) The passage implies that the most significant educational value of sports lies in their ability to: **(1 mark)**
A. reduce academic workload
B. improve physical fitness alone
C. develop transferable life skills across contexts
D. replace classroom learning
- ii) How does the Integrated Sports and Learning Programme challenge the conventional separation between academics and sports? (40–50 words) **(2 marks)**
- iii) Complete the sentence: **(1 mark)**
By emphasising reflection and goal-setting, the programme helped students recognise the link between physical discipline and _____ learning behaviour.
- iv) Statement (S): The sports programme contributed to students’ cognitive and emotional development beyond the playing field.
Reason (R): Skills such as resilience, strategic thinking, and emotional regulation developed through sports were applied in academic and social situations.
Choose the correct option: **(1 mark)**
A. Both S and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of S.
B. Both S and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of S.
C. S is true, but R is false.
D. S is false, but R is true.
- v) Which word or phrase from paragraph 2 refers to self-driven motivation rather than external rewards? **(1 mark)**
- vi) In 40–50 words, analyse how limiting external rewards influenced students’ attitudes towards success and failure. **(2 marks)**
- vii) Which observation best demonstrates the transfer of sports-based competencies to academic settings? **(1 mark)**

- A. Students spent more time practising sports
 - B. Students became competitive in examinations
 - C. Quiet students emerged as confident decision-makers
 - D. Students demanded rewards for performance
- viii) The passage ultimately suggests that sports education should be viewed as: **(1 mark)**
- A. an extracurricular activity with limited academic relevance
 - B. a stress-relief mechanism only
 - C. an essential component of holistic and competency-based education
 - D. a replacement for traditional teaching methods

SECTION – B GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

Q3. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions:

(1x10=10 Marks)

i) The electrician will _____ the main switch before repairs.

- (a) turn down (b) turn off (c) turn out (d) turn in

ii) Teacher: You must bring the documents tomorrow.

Student: I will do so.

The teacher told the student that he must bring the documents the next day, and the student replied that he _____.

iii) The news report read, “There _____ a delay due to heavy fog.”

- (a) may be (b) must be (c) will be (d) shall be

iv) Identify error & correction:

Each of the boys were given a certificate.

v) The supervisor _____ the workers during the night shift.

- (a) kept an eye on
(b) kept up with
(c) kept from
(d) kept away

vi) The meeting _____ (postpone) due to unavoidable reasons.

vii) Aanya: When will the results come?

Rehan: By next week.

Rehan replied that _____.

viii) Identify the error:

Neither the documents nor the laptop were found.

ix) Report the question:

“Did you enjoy the workshop?”

x) She said that she _____ help her friend later.

(a) will (b) could (c) would (d) can

xi) The audience, along with the hosts, _____ excited.

(a) were (b) is (c) are (d) have

xii) Looking for a reliable service? You _____ contact us anytime.

(a) can (b) should (c) may (d) shall

WRITING SKILLS (10 Marks)

Note: *All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and create for assessment purpose*

Q4 (A). Your state government has banned the use of plastic bags. You are highly moved by the violence of the rule in the weekly markets. You are Amarjeet, a resident of Wave City Ghaziabad. Write a letter to the Editor of The Tribune, in not more than 120 words, drawing attention towards harm caused by law offence and aware people about the need of the hour. **(5 Marks)**

OR

Q4 (B). You are Pragya/ Prathmik, of 24/7, Mall Road, Shimla. Write a letter in about 120 words to the Editor of The Daily News expressing your views on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and how, if implemented sincerely at all levels, it can produce a great change in the society.

Q5(A). You are the President of the **Science & Innovation Club** of your school. Two guest speakers have written to express interest in conducting a session titled “*Scientific Thinking & Innovation for Students.*” Read the excerpts and write a response selecting ONE speaker with reasons. (120 words) **(5 Marks)**

Excerpt 1 — Dr. Kanika Sharma (Astrophysicist & Science Communicator)

“...I would be delighted to interact with your students and share my journey in astrophysics. Over the last 18 years, I have worked at the National Astrophysics Research Centre, leading projects on solar flares, satellite imaging, and observational astronomy. My lectures are known for simplifying complex scientific concepts using real space data, interactive simulations, and hands-on demonstrations. I've trained more than 12,000 students across India and have received the ‘Outstanding Science Educator Award’ for inspiring young minds. I believe your students will benefit greatly from understanding how scientific curiosity can shape future innovations...”

Dr. Kanika Sharma

Excerpt 2 — Mr. Krishnan (Robotics Engineer & STEM Mentor)

“...It would be an honour to conduct a session at your school’s Innovation Week. With 14+ years of experience in robotics engineering, I have worked on AI-driven robots, automation systems, and drone technologies for industrial and educational institutions. My workshops focus on design-thinking, rapid prototyping, coding fundamentals, and project-based learning. Students particularly enjoy building small working models during my sessions, and many have gone on to win national-level robotics competitions. I emphasize creativity, teamwork, and practical problem-solving—skills essential for young innovators. I look forward to guiding your students through a hands-on introduction to robotics...”

Mr. Krishnan

Q5(B). You are Maya, a member of the Journalism Club, currently working on an article titled “Digital India: Transforming the Nation.” You are a strong writer but require support in data collection and graphic design. Three club members, Rohan, Bhavna, and Chitra have shared their profiles. Read the excerpts carefully and recommend the best co-author for your article. Provide logical reasons using evidence from the excerpts.

Excerpt 1 — Rohan (Research Analyst & Data Specialist)

“...I enjoy working with numbers and transforming raw information into meaningful insights. Over the last two years, I have handled the research segment for multiple school magazines and debates. I am proficient in statistical tools, economic indicators, and analyzing digital trends such as internet penetration, online payments, and mobile usage patterns. However, I prefer working independently, without much collaboration or discussion during the writing process. While I can provide detailed data support, I may not be available for frequent meetings or joint editing sessions due to my personal work style...”

— *Rohan*

Excerpt 2 — Bhavna (Graphic Designer & Visual Storytelling Enthusiast)

“...Creative expression is my strength. I specialize in infographics, poster layouts, and visual storytelling for school events and social media pages. My designs focus on clarity and aesthetic appeal, ensuring complex information is understood easily by readers. I am enthusiastic about new projects and enjoy experimenting with colours, layouts and digital illustration tools. However, I sometimes struggle to meet strict timelines, especially during exam weeks or when multiple design tasks overlap. With proper guidance on deadlines, I can deliver visually impactful work that enhances any article or presentation...”

— *Bhavna*

Excerpt 3 — Chitra (Survey Coordinator & Collaborative Researcher)

“...I have been a part of several community outreach programmes where I handled field surveys, student interviews, and opinion polls. Collecting accurate on-ground data and organizing it systematically is something I take pride in. I work well in teams, enjoy brainstorming, and always meet deadlines before time. For last year’s annual newsletter, I collaborated with writers and designers to compile reports on digital literacy programmes in villages. I believe teamwork leads to richer stories, and I am always open to co-authoring pieces that require structured research and clear timelines...”

— Chitra

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

Q6. Read the given extracts and answer any ONE of the two questions given below:(5 marks)

Q6 (A). “We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity. ”

i) It is a victory for ‘human dignity’. Pick the option that lists the correct answer for what ‘human dignity’ would include. (1 Mark)

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| a) i) equality | ii) liberty | iii) indecency |
| b) i) liberty | ii) indecency | iii) self-respect |
| c) i) immorality | ii) self-respect | iii) equality |
| d) i) equality | ii) liberty | iii) self-respect |

ii) Why does the speaker say that it is a ‘rare privilege’? (2 Marks)

iii) How do you think the speaker feels? Choose the option that best fits his state of mind (1 Mark)



- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| a) i) Emotional | ii) elated | iii) unmindful |
| b) i) Elated | ii) unmindful | iii) overwhelmed |
| c) i) overwhelmed | ii) elated | iii) honoured |
| d) i) Elated | ii) honoured | iii) unmindful |

iv). Pick the option that showcases the usage of ‘host’ as in the extract. (1 Mark)

- a) He was praised for his hospitality as the host of the party.
- b) She was able to host the event without any hindrance.
- c) She met the host and apologized for her friend’s misbehavior.
- d) He is the best host that one can ever come across.

OR

Q6 (B). I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. Anil made money by fits and starts. He would borrow one week, lend the next. He kept worrying about his next cheque, but as soon as it arrived, he would go out and celebrate. It seems he wrote for magazines—a queer way to make a living!
(The Thief’s story)

i) Anil made money ‘by fits and starts’ means that he (1 Mark)

- a) deemed it fit to start investing money.
- b) started earning money in the recent past.
- c) received money intermittently.
- d) put his money to use frequently

ii) The information in the extract suggests that Anil could be a (1 Mark)

- a) salaried professional
- b) freelancer
- c) businessman
- d) volunteer

iii) The reference to making a little money ‘this way’ refers to a way that is viewed by most people as (1 Mark)

- a) sensible
- b) inappropriate
- c) charitable
- d) Aggressive

iv) Based on your understanding of Anil in the extract, explain in 30–40 words how his attitude towards money reflects his personality. Support your answer with one reference from the extract.

(2 Marks)

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer ANY ONE of the two questions given below (5 Marks)

Q7(A).

He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage.
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.
He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

- i. Complete the following suitably.
In the poem, the majestic, free-willed tiger is caged as opposed to _____ (1 Mark)
- ii. What is the significance of the use of the word “shadow” in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the given extract? Answer in about 40 words (2Marks)
- iii. Select the option that describes the tiger in the following lines. (1 Mark)

‘On pads of velvet quiet, In his quiet rage.’

1. nervous
2. scared
3. distraught
4. light-footed
5. indignant

(A) 1 and 2 (B) 2, 3 and 4 (C) 3, 4 and 5 (D) 1, 2 and 3

- iv. Identify the type of imagery used in the lines of the poem. (1 Mark)

Q7(B).

“But I can get a hair-dye
And set such colour there,
Brown, or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone
And not my yellow hair.”

(For Anne Gregory)

- i. What is the objective of the poet in using conjunction ‘but’ in the given extract? (1 Mark)
- ii. What is the significance of the argument “But I can get a hair-dye/ And set such colour there, Brown, or black, or carrot”? What effect will it have on the young men? Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

iii. Complete the following suitably.

Anne Gregory despite her young age seems to have clarity of thought because she wants

(1 Mark)

iv. What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines?

(1 Mark)

1. Defiant
2. Sarcastic
3. Humorous
4. Resigned
5. Hopeful

Select the correct option:

(A) 1 and 3 (B) 2 and 4 (C) 1 and 5 (D) 3 and 5

Q8. Answer any **FOUR** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4x3=12 Marks)

- i) Describe the role of the bus ride in shaping Valli's understanding of the world.
(Madam Rides the Bus)
- ii) 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)
- iii) How does Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values?
(The Proposal)
- iv) What lesson does the poem 'Amanda!' teach about parenting?
(Amanda!)
- v) The 'fight or flight response', that is, to stay and face a situation or run from it- is an automatic reaction to an event perceived as stressful or harmful. How would you evaluate the young gull's response on finding himself off the ledge?
(His First Flight)

Q9. Answer any **TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2x3=6 Marks)

- i) How did Ebright's mother help him to become a scientist?
(Making of a Scientist)
- ii) What was Mr. Herriot's strict advice? Did Mrs. Pumphrey agree to his advice?
(The Triumph of Surgery)
- iii) What does the phrase "honour among thieves" mean? Why does Horace get angry at this phrase?
(A Question of Trust)

Q10. Answer any **ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6 Marks)

- i) What factors, do you think, allowed Kisa Gotami to finally understand the Buddha's teaching on her second visit?
(The Sermon at Benaras)
- ii) The poems, 'The Trees' and 'A Tiger in the Zoo' resonate the theme of importance of freedom and the desire to break free from any kind of dominance. Examine

Q11. Answer any **ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6 Marks)

- i) How does the author use the narrative technique of characterization to portray Griffin as both, a brilliant scientist and a ruthless criminal?
(Footprints without Feet)
- ii) How does the story 'The Necklace' reflect the theme of desire versus reality?
(The Necklace)