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JABALPUR REGION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code No. 184)
CLASS-X
PRE- BOARD EXAMINATION 2024-25**

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time is allotted for question-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING(20), GRAMMAR(20) & WRITING and LITERATURE(40).
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A: READING SKILLS		20
I	Read the passage given below	
	SECTION A (READING)	
	<p>1. Read the passage.</p> <p>The choices we make on a daily basis—wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation—can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances.</p> <p>You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness.</p> <p>We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe. Sometimes we don't even realize how lines help to keep us safe.</p> <p>I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I felt horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself, "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, travelling, doing speaking engagements and so on— simply exhausting myself.</p> <p>Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle.</p> <p>You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike, and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.</p>	

	<p>On the basis of understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow.</p> <p>1). Which of the characteristics are apt about the writer in the following context? “I know I have limits and that I’ve reached them, but I’m going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. negligent 2. indecisive 3. spontaneous 4. reckless 5. purposeless 6. patient <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2 and 5 b) 3 and 6 c) 1 and 4 d) 2 and 3 <p>2). Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below.</p> <p>Assertion: Living life without discipline can lead to carelessness and potential harm.</p> <p>Reasoning: Discipline helps set limits and boundaries that ensure safety, both physically and mentally, preventing harm and exhaustion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Both Assertion and Reasoning are correct, and the Reasoning is the correct explanation for the Assertion. B) Both Assertion and Reasoning are correct, but the Reasoning is not the correct explanation for the Assertion. C) The Assertion is correct, but the Reasoning is incorrect. D) The Assertion is incorrect, but the Reasoning is correct. <p>3). Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of ‘outlook’, as used in the passage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person’s evaluation of life 2. A person’s experiences in life 3. A person’s point of view towards life 4. A person’s regrets in life 5. A person’s general attitude to life <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) (1) and (4) b) (2) and (3) c) (3) and (5) d) (4) and (5) <p>4). Select the option that makes the correct use of “unsustainable”, as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) In the long run, the _____ officials followed emergency procedures. b) Emergency procedures were _____ by the officials. 	<p>10</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>
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	<p>c) Officials reported an _____ set of events during the emergency. d) Officials admit that the emergency system is _____ in the longer run.</p> <p>5). What analogy does the author use to illustrate the importance of boundaries? 1</p> <p>6). The author uses colloquial words such as “yeah” and “Woo-hoo!”. Explain which of the following words is <i>least likely</i> to be considered colloquial - "hooked," "guy," "stuff," or "stress." 1</p> <p>7). What kind of situations or outcomes does the phrase "potentially harmful circumstances" imply, according to the passage? 2</p> <p>8). What main theme emerges from the author's reflection on discipline, boundaries, and personal well-being? 2</p>	
	<p>2. Read the passage given below. In an era dominated by screens and constant connectivity, a counter-movement is gaining momentum: the digital detox. This movement encourages individuals to take intentional breaks from their digital devices, aiming to reduce stress, improve mental well-being, and foster real-world connections.</p> <p>The primary drive behind the digital detox movement is the growing realization of the adverse effects of excessive screen time. Studies have shown that prolonged exposure to screens can disrupt sleep patterns, reduce attention spans, and even contribute to feelings of loneliness and depression. By consciously unplugging, individuals can recalibrate their relationship with technology and rediscover the joys of face-to-face interactions.</p> <p>However, embracing a digital detox is not without its challenges. In a world where work, social interactions, and even leisure often revolve around digital platforms, disconnecting can feel daunting. There’s also the fear of missing out (FOMO) on important updates or news. Yet, with structured breaks and setting clear boundaries, many find the transition to be rejuvenating.</p> <p>Beyond individual benefits, the digital detox movement has broader societal implications. Schools are introducing tech-free days, companies are promoting device-free meetings, and retreats are offering unplugged experiences. These initiatives aim to create a balanced digital ecosystem, where technology enhances rather than dominates our lives.</p>	

Survey on Digital Detox (Total number of participants: 400)

No	Survey statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Excessive screen time can lead to mental health issues	230	110	40	10	10
2	Digital detox improves sleep quality	210	130	40	10	10
3	Unplugging from devices is challenging	190	140	50	10	10
4	Schools should have tech-free days	200	120	50	20	10
5	The fear of missing out (FOMO) is a barrier to digital detox	220	110	50	10	10
6	Device-free meetings are more productive	205	120	55	10	10

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

- i.** The digital detox movement encourages individuals to take breaks from their _____.
- ii.** One of the adverse effects of excessive screen time is the disruption of _____ patterns.
- iii.** The primary reason for the rise of the digital detox movement is _____.
- iv.** What can be inferred about the challenges of a digital detox?
 - a) They are universally easy.
 - b) They are primarily financial.
 - c) They involve the fear of missing out and societal norms.
 - d) They are promoted by tech companies.
- v.** According to the survey, which statement had the most “Strongly Agree” responses?
- vi.** Why is the digital detox movement considered beneficial for individuals?
- vii.** Discuss the broader societal implications of the digital detox movement? (Answer in about 30 words)
- viii.** Elaborate on the challenges individuals face when trying to reduce screen time. (Answer in about 30 words).

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SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR

10

3. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions. 10x1=10 Marks

- i. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a diary.

Today I was informed by my science teacher that my project _____ selected for the upcoming exhibition.

- A. Is
- B. was
- C. has been
- D. had been

- ii. Read the given sentence from an Indian art journal and Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format.

Mahbubani painting is one in the many traditional Indian art forms.

ERROR	CORRECTION

- iii. Report the dialogue between a son and his father, by completing the sentence:

Father : Son, who are your superheroes?

Son: Anyone who shows kindness and compassion to others.

In response to the question about his superheroes, son says that_____.

- iv. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an official

Attention all housemasters!

Please note that the upcoming CCA activity will be an essay writing competition.

Kindly submit the names of participants (at /to/ in) the CCA in-charge."

- v. Identify the error on a shop's hoarding and supply the correction, for the following sales offer:

Sri Ram & Daughters Pvt. Ltd. Bada Fuhara, Jabalpur

Massive discount for all senior citizen vaccinated with the precautionary dose.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

- vi. The climate control comment by an activist_____on social media yesterday.

a). blow up

- b) blew up
- c) is blown
- d) will be blown

vii. As I was standing on the dock, looking out at the lake for the last time, a feeling of emptiness_____over me like darkness.

- a) will wash
- b) had washed
- c) will have washed
- d) washed

viii. Complete the slogan by the Ministry for Child Welfare.

_____(May/Can/Need)_____WE AFFORD TO NEGLECT CHILDREN?
THINK TWICE!

ix. Complete the given school announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank.

Good news, everyone! Our school's football team has successfully_____a place in the finals.

- a). securing
- b). secured
- c). will secure
- d). had secured

x. Detect the error and supply the correction for the given observation by a child.

That needn't be Uncle's sweatshirt. It's too small.

ERROR	CORRECTION

xi. Complete the given sentence about the reaction of some friends, by selecting the correct option:

The group of friends _____excited at the prospect of their upcoming adventure.

- a). are
- b). has
- c). were

d). is

xii. Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an online news report:

Nearly most mall was closed for the public holiday.

a. most	every
b. mall	malls
C .was	were
d. the	that

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4.A. You are Manik Mehta, the Librarian at Devi charitable school, Ahmedabad. Place an order of school books and other story books for the school library with India Book Shop, Patel Nagar, Surat.

Or

4.B. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily, in about 120 words, expressing your concern about the heavy school bags and suggesting measures to resolve the problem and drawing the attention of the concerned authorities. You are Anushka /Aneesh of 1122, Sai Vihar Colony, Patna.

5.A. The given pie chart represents the amount of money spent by a family on different items in a month. Write an analytical paragraph using the information given in the chart.



Or

5.B. The following table shows details about the internet activities for six categories for different age groups. Write an analytical paragraph for the table given in around 100-120 words.

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Internet Activities by Age Group

Activity%	Age group						
	Teens	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70+
Get News	76	73	76	75	71	74	70
Online games	81	54	37	29	25	25	32
Downloads	52	46	27	15	13	8	6
Product research	0	79	80	83	79	74	70
Buying a product	43	68	69	68	67	65	41
Searching for people	5	31	23	23	24	29	27

SECTION D: LITERATURE (40 M)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions of **any one** of the two.

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I. "What's the matter with you, you fool? Shouted Ramlal." I am only taking you to school". Then he told his wife, "Let her wear some decent clothes today or else what will the teachers and the other school girls think of us when they see her?" New clothes had never been made for Bholi. The old dresses of her sisters were passed on to her. No one cared to mend or wash her clothes. But today she was lucky to receive a clean dress which had shrunk after many washings and no longer fitted Champa. She was even bathed and oil was rubbed into her dry and matted hair, only then did she believe that she was being taken to a place better than her home! When they reached the school, the children were already in their classrooms.

i. What prompted Ramlal to label Bholi as foolish ?

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ii. Pick the sentence that brings out the meaning of '*decent*' as used in the extract.

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- a) He gets a decent amount of salary.
- b) One must be decent when having a conversation with strangers.
- c) She was dressed in a decent manner for the interview.
- d) It was very decent of him to lend me some money.

iii. Why was Bholi's hair matted?

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iv. Why did Bholi feel frightened when she was informed that she would be going to school?

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v. What made her believe that she was being taken to a place better than her home?

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Or

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

OFFSTAGE VOICE: (after a pause) You, sir.

THINK -TANK: (smacking mirror) Quicker. Answer quicker next time. I hate a

	<p>slow mirror. (He admires himself in the mirror.) Ah, there I am. Are we Martians not a handsome race? So much more attractive than those ugly Earthlings with their tiny heads. Noodle, you keep on exercising your mind, and someday you'll have a balloon brain just like mine.</p> <p>NOODLE: Oh, I hope so, Mighty Think-Tank. I hope so.</p> <p>THINK -TANK: Now, contact the space probe. I want to invade that primitive ball of mud called Earth before lunch.</p> <p>NOODLE: It shall be done, sir. (He adjusts levers on the switchboard. Electronic buzzes and beeps are heard as the curtains open.)</p> <p>1. Choose the option that lists the most appropriate meaning of think-tank from those given below.</p> <p>A) A tank that helps you think deeper than an average person, if you use its contents regularly.</p> <p>B) Non-stop flow of ideas from a fixed source about one particular issue.</p> <p>C) A pool of ideas and solutions to various problems via an individual, group or organization.</p> <p>D) A method by way of which people think collectively to identify stray thoughts among them.</p> <p>organization.</p> <p>2. "Mirror, mirror, in my hand. Who is the most fantastically intellectually gifted being in the land?"</p> <p>Choose the option that lists the genre having the original reference to the above lines.</p> <p>A) Biography</p> <p>B) Science-fiction</p> <p>C) Mystery</p> <p>D) Fairy tale</p> <p>3. Choose the option that correctly categorizes the phrase "(after a pause)" based on the dialogue given above.</p> <p>A) aside</p> <p>B) stage direction</p> <p>C) narration</p> <p>D) setting</p> <p>4. Choose the option that fits the example of an irony from the ones given below.</p> <p>A) "Who is the most fantastically intellectually gifted being in the land?"</p> <p>B) "I hate a slow mirror."</p> <p>C) "Noodle, you keep on exercising your mind, and someday you'll have a balloon brain just like mine.</p> <p>D) "I want to invade that primitive ball of mud called Earth before lunch."</p> <p>5. Choose the option that includes the display of 'smacking' as used in the extract.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>
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- A) Option (1)
- B) Option (2)
- C) Option (3)
- D) Option (4)

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

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.

1: What do the people think about the world?

2: How are ice and fire similar to each other though they have contradictory traits?

3: What does fire represent in the above verse?

4. "Nature's first green is gold

Her hardest hue to hold

Her early leaf's a flower;

But only so an hour"

Analyze the rhyming patterns in the two given verses. Determine if they share the same rhyming scheme, and if not, specify the rhyming scheme for each.

5. Identify the title of the poem and its poet.

(i). Tiger in the Zoo – Leslie Norris

(ii). Fire and Ice – Robert Frost

(iii). Amanda – Robin Klein

(iv). Dust of Snow – Robert Frost

7.B.

What is the boy now, who has lost his ball

What, what is he to do? I saw it go

Merrily bouncing down the street, and then

Merrily over-there it is in the water!

No use to say 'O there are other balls

1: What has happened to the boy?

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2: Why does the poet say "no use to say 'O there are other balls"?	1
3.What according to you would the boy do?	1
4. Which one of the following is not the synonym of merrily. (i) festively (ii) solemnly (iii) mirthfully (iv) joyously	1
5. Identify the line that exemplifies personification.	
8. Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each: 4x3=12 marks	1 6
i) On the basis of your understanding of the story "A Letter to God", validate the following statement: "Adversity is the real test of human character."	
ii). What insights do the migrating trees in poem 'Trees' offer into the human experience of transcending limitation and achieving growth and liberation.	
iii). Evaluate how effectively 'Madam Rides the Bus' narrates the inner conflict between the security of routine and the thrill of exploration.	
iv) Why did Kisa Gotami say, "How selfish am I in my grief!"?	
What made Kisa Gotami realize that her sorrow wasn't unique and that everyone suffers?	
v) What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for?	
9. Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 3x2=6 Marks	6
i. Our inability to accept our limitations may lead to an unhappy life. Analyze with reference to the story, 'The Necklace.'	
ii. Justify the opinion that Ebright's early successes were essential for his later achievements in science. (The Making of a Scientist)	
iii. Why does Mrs Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is 'a triumph of surgery'?	
10. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words 1x6=6 Marks	6
I.Analyze the contrasting natural imagery in Frost's 'Dust of Snow' and 'Fire and Ice' to reveal the poem's divergent explorations of hope and despair.	
II. How do "The Sermon at Benares" and "Madam Rides the Bus" show that life and death are temporary and can change suddenly?	
11. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6	6
i.Presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than a gun. How far is it true in the case of Ausable, the secret agent?	
ii.Horace stated that he robbed only those who had a lot of money. Was he really a threat to society? Did he lack the qualities of a good citizen? Discuss the values he needs to imbibe to lead a path of righteousness .	