

# KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN JABALPUR REGION

FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2025-2026

CLASS X

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (SET A)

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

1. Please check that this question paper contains 12 printed pages.
2. 15-minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

## **General Instructions:**

*Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:*

- (i) This question paper comprises **11** questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The question paper contains **three** sections:

**Section A** – Reading Skills

**Section B** – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

**Section C** – Literature

- (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

## **SECTION A**

### **Reading Skills**

**20 marks**

#### **Q.1 Read the following passage carefully: (10 MARKS)**

1. In a world where speed is celebrated, the concept of *slow living* is quietly changing lives. The term does not mean living lazily or avoiding ambition. Instead, it stands for a more mindful and deliberate way of living—where people focus on quality over quantity and depth over display.
2. The movement started in Italy in the 1980s as a protest against fast food, but it soon expanded into a philosophy of life. People realised that the same hurried attitude that spoiled their diet was also damaging their relationships, productivity, and peace of mind.
3. Slow living invites individuals to pause and observe life closely. It encourages eating slowly, speaking thoughtfully, and working with attention. It is about valuing small

moments rather than chasing endless achievements. In today's urban culture, where multitasking is worn as a badge of honour, this approach offers a refreshing alternative.

4. Researchers have found that constant rushing activates the body's stress hormones. Over time, this can lead to burnout, anxiety, and even heart problems. Those who practise slow living report better emotional balance and higher satisfaction with everyday routines.

5. However, the path is not free from challenges. Many people associate speed with success. They feel guilty for taking breaks or switching off their phones for a few hours. As a result, rest becomes a luxury rather than a necessity. Slow living challenges this mindset by reminding people that productivity without peace is hollow.

6. The digital age adds another layer of complexity. Social media creates pressure to appear busy and successful all the time. Scrolling endlessly may give temporary pleasure but leaves the mind scattered. Slow living suggests intentional digital breaks—what experts now call “digital detox.”

7. In India, the practice is gaining popularity among young professionals. Many have started home gardening, mindful cooking, journaling, or practising yoga. The pandemic taught people that inner calm matters more than outward hustle. Small lifestyle changes, such as limiting screen time and enjoying family meals, are reshaping modern priorities.

8. Ultimately, slow living is not about slowing the clock but about rebalancing life. It is about aligning daily choices with personal values, ensuring that we don't just *exist* but truly *live*. As the world races ahead, those who pause may actually go further—because they walk with awareness.

**Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:**

1. What is the best way to describe “*slow living*” as given in the passage? 1

- a) Total escape from city life
- b) Being more deliberate and in control
- c) Rejecting all technology
- d) Equating speed with ambition

2. Based on the passage, which two are **true** about modern life? 1

- a) It values busyness more than balance
- b) It helps people stay calm and creative
- c) It often causes burnout
- d) It encourages mindfulness

**(A)** a and b      **(B)** b and c      **(C)** a and c      **(D)** c and d

3. Do as instructed:

1

- I. Find from the passage a word that means “complete exhaustion due to overwork” (para 4).
- II. Find a word that means “spread or circulate widely” (para 6).

4. How does the passage explain the paradox that slowing down increases productivity? 1

5. Which of the following best summarizes paragraph 5?1

- a) Rest is seen as a weakness in modern life.
- b) Productivity and peace should coexist.
- c) People often feel guilty for taking breaks.
- d) All of the above

6. How has the pandemic influenced the popularity of slow living in India? Give two examples from the passage. 2 MARKS

7. In the digital age, slow living recommends: 1 MARK

- a) Unlimited social media scrolling
- b) Ignoring work responsibilities
- c) Intentional digital breaks (digital detox)
- d) Working faster and multitasking

8. According to the passage, why is slow living considered a “refreshing alternative” in today’s urban culture? Support your answer with examples from the text. 2 MARKS

**2. Read the following passage carefully: (10 MARKS)**

(1) If they go unaddressed, life’s annoyances can affect your well-being. Scientific studies have found that people who rate high on tests for anger are at an increased risk for high blood pressure and heart disease. To process anger in a healthy way, Todd Kashdan, a psychology professor at George Mason University in Virginia, recommends you attempt to understand why you feel upset. Without pinpointing why you’re angry, he says, “You can’t get a foothold to figure out what your body is mobilizing to do.”

(2) When harnessed properly, anger can be a motivator. Frustration can drive us to choose a novel path while problem-solving or to become focused and committed — taking up a new cause, for example. Frustration may also be useful in negotiations. But watch, how you express it: raising your voice during a debate may be helpful, but the

same tactic could potentially undermine collaborative work.

(3) Vexation has limits. Kashdan recommends thinking of anger as a speedometer, where 10 kilometres per hour is irritation and 100 kilometres per hour is blind rage. Speed limits are a measure of effectiveness: momentary annoyance during a negotiation might be useful, but rage seldom is. If you use anger as a tool too often, people will learn to avoid you. While others may offer small amounts of time and effort to keep your temper from erupting, you'll miss out on their best contributions.

(4) If you get into a disagreement with someone, pause for a moment and try to understand that person's point of view, then look for a mutually beneficial solution. Once you become angry, your thinking gets too narrow. To bring anger down a notch, psychologists recommend practising deep breathing. Focus on inhaling and exhaling, and picture your breath travelling to your diaphragm. Create a playlist of music to help relax when you feel agitated. Different genres work for different people.

(5) Keep disagreements from turning into fights by improving your communication skills. Avoid cutting others off or using accusatory adverbs like 'always' and 'never'. "Unhealthy anger, the inability to cool down when upset, can be a symptom of mental health disorders such as depression," says Darin Dougherty of the Harvard Medical School. Speak to your doctor if this feels familiar: medication and cognitive behavioural therapy help.

(6) After anger runs its course, let go. Experts offer three steps for decompressing after you have been hurt: make sense of the wrongdoing with a loved one or a therapist; avoid dwelling after you've processed the issue; and, finally move on — find humor in the situation or leave the environment if it has become toxic.

**Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:**

(i) Complete the following statement:  
According to the passage, it is important to understand the reason  
for your anger because \_\_\_\_\_. 1

(ii) According to the author, which of the following is an effective way  
to bring down anger? 1

- (A) practising deep breathing
- (B) playing a musical instrument for others
- (C) travelling to different places
- (D) going for a physical workout

(iii) Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following: 1

If you get into a disagreement with someone, pause for a moment and try to understand that person's point of view. (Paragraph 4)

(A) denial (B) conviction (C) reflection (D) compassion

(iv) Select the option which is closest in meaning to 'undermine'. (Paragraph 2) 1

(A) collective (B) emphasize (C) unilateral (D) weaken

(v) Explain this statement from Paragraph 2 – "Frustration can drive us to choose a novel path while problem-solving." 2

(vi) How can communication skills help in anger management? 1

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately: 1

If your anger remains uncontrolled.....

(A) decisions will get delayed resulting in losses.

(B) you will not receive the best contributions.

(C) there can be momentary annoyance during a negotiation.

(D) people will respond equally aggressively.

(viii) How can you unwind after letting go of your anger? Give two suggestions from the text. 2

### **Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills**

#### **20 MARKS**

**3. Complete any *TEN* of the following twelve tasks, as directed.**

I. Complete the given narrative with the correct option to fill in the blank. 1

Yesterday, Manu walked to the park and \_\_\_\_\_ a dog barking very loudly.

(A) to hear (B) will hear (C) heard (D) did heard

II. Given below is the conversation between Anil and a police officer.

Complete the sentence by reporting it correctly. 1

Sunil: Where is my car, sir? I parked it here.

Police officer: The car has been towed away as you parked it in the 'No Parking' zone.

Sunil asked the police officer where his car was that he had parked there. The police officer replied that the car had been towed away as \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Fill in the blank choosing the most appropriate option: 1

The news about the retirement of my favorite character gave me \_\_\_\_ disappointment.

***Many/few/ little/ several***

IV. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the line given below:  
1 mark

The roads have been widened so much that six lanes of vehicles \_\_\_\_ (will / may / can) be accommodated.

V. Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence. 1

*Ritika*: Will you help me plan my itinerary?

*Shaan* : Yes, indeed ! Where are you going ?

Ankita asked Tanu if \_\_\_\_\_. Tanu enthusiastically replied in affirmative and asked where she was going.

VI. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence taken from a book about 'Birds'. 1

Each year, thousands of birds \_\_\_\_\_ (migrate/immigrate/emigrate) southwards to avoid the harsh winter, embarking on an incredible journey that spans thousands of miles.

(VII) Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an agency's advertisement. 1

Tell us much about your project and we'll select suitable candidates for you to hire.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

(VIII) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an article about growing obesity.

Obesity in teenage children is a major concern between parents today. 1

<i>Option No.</i>	<i>Error</i>	<i>Correction</i>
(A)	teenage	teenagers
(B)	concern	concerns
(C)	between	among
(D)	today	now

(IX) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the notice on a school notice board. 1

We are pleased to announce that our Annual Sports Day \_\_\_\_\_ on 30th April, 2025 at the school playground from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(A) is held (B) will be held (C) had been held (D) to be held

(X) Complete the slogan on “Save Earth”, by filling in the blank with the correct option.

Let’s join hands, cultivate conservation, and \_\_\_\_\_ a greener tomorrow for generations to come. 1

(A) ensuring (B) ensure (C) ensures (D) ensured

(XI) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in an air purifier’s instruction manual. 1

The plug should fit upto the outlet. If it does not fit, do not force it in.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

XII) Yukti and Sanjay had a conversation about going to a restaurant. Report Yukti’s question. 1

“Does this restaurant serve good South Indian food ?”

## **Writing**

**4.A** As Yusra/Yousuf, the Secretary of the RWA of your society, residing at 493, Stargazing Apartments, Newbagh, you have noticed many small plots of land lying

unattended in your city. You feel that the plots can be utilized to create green spaces where people can sit and relax. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 words, highlighting the issue and urging necessary action from the concerned department for improving the aesthetic appeal of your city.

**OR**

**4.B** You are Riya / Rohan, a student of Class 10, living at 45, Model Town, Delhi. Write a letter to the Principal of Green Valley Public School, Delhi enquiring about the procedure, fees, and subjects offered for Class 11 admission for the academic session 2025–26.

**5A.** Natural food, typically refers to food that has not been processed or preserved in any significant way before it is consumed, while ultra-processed food refers to food items that have been altered from their natural state through various methods. Given below is a table that differentiates between natural and processed foods. Study the description given and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, drawing a comparison between the two:

<b>Natural Food</b>	<b>Processed Food</b>
• High fibre	• High sugar
• Healthy nutrients	• Unhealthy nutrients
• Healthy fats	• Unhealthy fats
• Low sodium	• High sodium
• Regulates blood sugar, blood pressure and provides healthy nutrients	• Tasty, ready to eat and addictive

**OR**

**5B.**

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 150-200 words.	5
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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 C :LITERATURE 40 MARKS**

**6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any *one* of the given two, (a) or (b): (5 MARKS)**

**A.** But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope: help from God. “Don’t be so upset, even though this seems like a total loss. Remember, no one dies of hunger!” That’s what they say: “Faith moves mountains.”  
(*A Letter to God*)

1. What emotion is dominant in this extract? 1
2. What does “no one dies of hunger” reveal about Lencho’s character? 1
3. How does the setting of the “solitary house in the middle of the valley” enhance the theme of faith? 1
4. Which figure of speech is used in “Faith moves mountains”?1
5. Lencho’s belief in divine help makes him— 1
  - a) Foolish and careless
  - b) Strong and hopeful
  - c) Arrogant and proud
  - d) Indifferent and lazy

**OR**

**6A.** Closing time arrived, and as soon as the doors were shut Griffin was able to give himself the pleasure of clothing and feeding himself without regard to expense. He broke open boxes and wrappers and fitted himself out with warm clothes. Soon, with shoes, an overcoat and a wide-brimmed hat, he became a fully dressed and visible

person. In the kitchen of the restaurant, he found cold meat and coffee, and he followed up the meal with sweets and wine taken from the grocery store. Finally, he settled down to sleep on a pile of quilts. If only Griffin had managed to wake up in good time all might have been well. As it was, he did not wake up until the assistants were already arriving next morning.

- i. Which events led Griffin into such situation? 1
- ii. Griffin was a lawless person. Justify this statement with evidence from the extract within 40 words. 2
- iii. What mistake did Griffin make that disrupted his comfortable stay at the store? 1
  - A. He attacked an employee
  - B. He showed them his experiment
  - C. He didn't share his food and quilt
  - D. He remained asleep when the assistants arrived in the morning
- iv. Name any two things that Griffin uses from the store? 1

**7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions of any *one* of the given two, (a) or (b): (5 MARKS)**

**A. The leaves strain toward the glass**

small twigs stiff with exertion

long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof

like newly discharged patients

half-dazed, moving

to the clinic doors.

(The Trees)

(i) How does the comparison between the boughs and newly discharged patients contribute to the theme or message of the poem ? Answer in about 40 words. 2

(ii) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. 1

The imagery and descriptions in the poem create a mood of.....

(A) satisfaction and elation

(B) transition and uncertainty

(C) confusion and chaos

(D) pessimism and certainty

(iii) Fill in the blank with one word. 1

The stiff movement of the twigs in the above extract suggests the \_\_\_\_\_ .

(iv) Why does the poet describe the bough as 'shuffling' ? 1

**OR**

**B.** "I heard an old religious man

But yester night declare

That he had found a text to prove

That only God, my dear,

Could love you for yourself alone

And not your yellow hair." (For Anne Gregory)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately: 1

The speaker addresses the person he is speaking to as "my dear" because \_\_\_\_\_.

(ii) The poet mentions "yellow hair". What is its significance in the context of the statement? Answer in about 40 words. 2

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. 1

The poet suggests that God's love in comparison to that of a human being is \_\_\_\_\_ (selfish/selfless).

(iv) As per the above extract, what attributes does God not love a person for? Select the correct option. 1

1. Wealth 2. Physical appearance

3. Intelligence 4. Inner qualities

5. Youth

(A) 1 and 4

(B) 3, 4, and 5

(C) 2 and 4

(D) Only 4

**8. Answer any *four* of the following five questions in 40 – 50 words each:  $4 \times 3 = 12$**

i) Mijbil spent most of his time in play. Elaborate.

(ii) How did Mandela learn the meaning of courage?

(iii) How did the baker herald his arrival every morning?

(iv) Why is the term 'bear hug' ironical?

(v) How did Valli manage to gather information about the bus ride she was planning?

**9. Answer any *two* of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each:  
 $2 \times 3 = 6$**

1. Attack is the secret of defense. Justify the statement in case of Ausable.

2. Describe Think-Tank in your own words. (The Book that Saved the Earth)

3. How does Richard Ebright's journey reflect the connection between curiosity and discipline in scientific success?

**10. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words : 6**

(a) Analyze and evaluate the role of faith in 'A Letter to God' and 'The Sermon at Benares'.

**OR**

(b) Explore the contrasting images of the tiger in 'A Tiger in the Zoo' and the tiger in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'.

**11. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words: 6**

(a) What plan did Horace Danby make to rob the house at Shotover Grange?

(A Question of Trust)

**OR**

(b) Were the sacrifices made by the Loiseles in vain? Justify your answer with reference to the text.

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