

PRE- BOARD EXAMINATION (2025-26)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - Code No. 184
CLASS-X- (2025-26)

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions.

Read the instructions carefully and follow them:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions 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)

1. Read the following passage.

10

1. Held every year on 21 May, UNESCO leads the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development highlighting not only the richness of the world’s cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.

2. A recent international emergency has proved the intrinsic value of the cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion, educational resource or personal well-being in times of crisis. It has also underscored the sector’s potential to generate economic growth, something which is too often underestimated.

3. With the adoption in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations, and the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2015, the message of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is more important than ever. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can best be achieved by drawing upon the creative potential of the world’s diverse cultures and engaging in continuous dialogue to ensure that all members of society benefit from sustainable development.

4. Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. Cultural diversity is a driving force of development, not only with respect to economic growth, but also as a means of leading a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life. This is captured in the culture conventions, which provide a solid basis for the promotion of cultural diversity. Cultural diversity is thus an asset that is indispensable for reducing poverty and the achievement of sustainable development.

5.	At the same time, acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity in particular through innovative use of media and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are conducive to dialogue among civilizations and cultures, respect and mutual understanding.
6.	In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Next, in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 57/249, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, and in 2015, the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development, affirming culture’s contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, acknowledging further the natural and cultural diversity of the world, and recognizing that cultures and civilizations can contribute to and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.
7.	The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to achieve the goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted on 20 October, 2005.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I.	Why is May 21 celebrated every year as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development? (Paragraph 1)	1
II.	According to paragraph 2, the cultural and creative sector contributes in all of the following ways EXCEPT:	1
	A. Generating social cohesion B. Serving as an educational resource C. Promoting personal well-being D. Reducing the number of UN resolutions	
III.	Complete the sentence by selecting the correct option (traditional / economic / spiritual): Cultural diversity is not only a driver of _____ development but also enriches people’s intellectual and emotional lives. (Paragraph 4)	1
IV.	What does the phrase “bridging the gap between cultures” (paragraph 4) suggest?	1
	A. Promoting peace, stability and development B. Erasing cultural differences completely C. Replacing one culture with another	
V.	Complete the analogy: ICTs : dialogue among cultures :: fair trade : _____ (Paragraph 5) (a) reduced prices (b) fair wages	1
VI.	Why is cultural diversity described as “an asset indispensable for sustainable development”? (Paragraph 4)	2
VII.	What are the main ideas of paragraph 3 and paragraph 4?	1
	i) The 2030 Agenda recognises the role of culture in achieving SDGs ii) Intercultural dialogue ensures inclusive development iii) Cultural diversity drives both economic growth and intellectual enrichment iv) ICTs strengthen cultural exchange	

	Options: A. i and iii B. ii and iv C. i and ii D. iii and iv	
VIII.	Why should acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity be promoted through media and ICTs? (Paragraph 5)	2
2.	Read the following passage.	10
1.	Increasing traffic congestion every year is causing increasing air pollution, wasting time and productivity and diverse respiratory diseases. Moreover, the cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous. However, neglecting the traffic jam problem would increase the social problems among citizens.	
2.	The number of vehicles has increased considerably in the city in the past five years. Due to this increase, the city roads witness frequent traffic congestions, but above all, the vehicles emitting pollutants are affecting the environment adversely.	
3.	The Capital's vehicular population saw an addition of more than five lakh vehicles last year, registering an increase of over 4%, according to the Delhi Economic Survey 2020-21.	
4.	In spite of the largest road network, through metro and bus services in major cities the transport system is not being able to keep pace with the growing demand. Consequently, more and more people use their private vehicles, adding to increased congestion on the roads. In spite of these challenges people in India prefer road travel over air and other means of travel.	
5.	Citizens of Delhi/NCR have, time and again, pondered over the possibilities of how to reduce the traffic congestion in the city, especially during the peak hours. People should use public transport, the government must increase the facilities of public transport, people should avoid the unnecessary collection of vehicles and should use carpool and vehicle sharing.	
6.	What is required is proper implementation of corrective measures by citizens to get an organized traffic management system.	
Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.		
I	Why has reducing traffic congestion been described as a challenge in paragraph 1? This is so because reducing traffic congestion _____.	1
	A. requires advanced technologies that are unavailable in India B. involves very high costs and complex management C. depends only on citizens' awareness campaigns D. can be achieved by adding more private vehicles	

II.	Identify the phrase in paragraph 2 that conveys the harmful impact of vehicles on the environment.	1
III.	Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the (Paragraph 3) brackets. Delhi witnessed a sharp rise in the number of vehicles last year, adding over five lakh new ones. This points to the _____ (growth / decline) in vehicular population in the city.	1
IV.	What does the writer mean by “in spite of the largest road network” in paragraph 4?	1
V.	Complete the following with the correct option. When the writer says “people in India prefer road travel over air and other means of travel,” in paragraph 4, it suggests that _____.	1
	A. road transport is seen as more convenient and affordable B. people dislike using buses and trains C. flights are banned in most Indian cities D. road travel reduces congestion naturally	
VI.	Complete the following appropriately. One likely reason why citizens of Delhi/NCR often discuss ways to (Paragraph 5) reduce traffic congestion is _____.	1
VII	How are ‘carpooling’ and ‘vehicle sharing’ connected in paragraph 5?	1
VIII	Elaborate how the “implementation of corrective measures” in paragraph 6 could lead to an organized traffic system	2
IX	Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph 5) Measures like carpooling and vehicle sharing are encouraged because they help in reducing the number of private vehicles on the road, thereby making traffic flow more _____ and reducing environmental pollution.	1

SECTION-B
WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

GRAMMAR

10

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: The teacher’s lecture was so _____ (inform) that the students listened carefully.	1
II.	Identify the error and write the correction: She do not like to watch television in the evening. Use the format:	1
	Error	Correction
III.	Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in bracket:	1

	By the time we reached the station, the train already _____ (leave).																
IV.	Change into reported speech: He said to his friend, "I will help you with your homework tomorrow." He told his friend that _____.	1															
V	Fill in the blank with the correct option: She is very particular _____ her health. A. about B. for C. of D. at	1															
VI	Report the following correctly: "Please, don't make so much noise," the librarian said to the students. The librarian told the students _____.	1															
VII.	Complete the opinion with the correct option: Watching the sunrise from the mountain top was an experience worth _____. A. remembering B. remembered C. remember D. to remember	1															
VIII	Identify the error in the given question and write the correction: Where you are going without telling me? Options: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Error</th> <th>Correction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A.</td> <td>Where</td> <td>When</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.</td> <td>You are</td> <td>Are you</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C.</td> <td>going</td> <td>goes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D.</td> <td>me</td> <td>I</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Error	Correction	A.	Where	When	B.	You are	Are you	C.	going	goes	D.	me	I	1
No.	Error	Correction															
A.	Where	When															
B.	You are	Are you															
C.	going	goes															
D.	me	I															
IX	Change into reported question: He asked me, "Do you know the way to the library?" He asked me _____.	1															
X	Fill in the blank with the correct option (must/may): You _____ wear a helmet while riding a two-wheeler. It's compulsory.	1															
XI	Fill in the blank with the correct determiner: _____ of the participants could solve the puzzle correctly. A. Many B. Much C. Little D. Each	1															

XII	<p>XII. Choose the correct option: There is very _____ sugar left in the jar; we need to buy some more.</p> <p>A. few B. little C. many D. plenty</p>	1
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WRITING

NOTE: All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4A.	<p>As Ananya, the Cultural Secretary of your school, you believe that promoting local art and traditional crafts in schools can help preserve the rich cultural heritage of your region. Write a letter to the Director of Education, in about 120 words, emphasizing the importance of cultural awareness and suggesting the need to introduce workshops and clubs for traditional art and crafts in schools.</p>	5
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OR

4B.	<p>As Rohan, the Sports Captain of Crescent High School, you are concerned about the rise in unhealthy lifestyles among students due to excessive screen time and lack of physical activity. Write a letter to the editor of a leading newspaper in about 120 words, highlighting the health issues caused by sedentary habits and proposing ways to encourage fitness and outdoor sports among the youth.</p>	5
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5A.	<p>You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Two guest artists – Mr. Arvind Menon and Ms. Kavita Rao – have written to express their interest in performing at your school’s Annual Cultural Fest. Below are excerpts from their letters.</p> <p>Excerpt 1: ...I am delighted at the opportunity to perform at your Annual Cultural Fest. With over 15 years of experience as a classical dancer, I have performed in prestigious national festivals and trained several young students who now perform professionally. My performances are known for their discipline, grace, and deep connection with traditional art forms. I believe presenting classical dance at your event will help students appreciate India’s rich cultural heritage. Warm regards, Mr. Arvind Menon</p> <p>Excerpt 2: ...It would be a pleasure to perform at your school’s Annual Cultural Fest. I am a contemporary dancer and choreographer who has won awards at international platforms. My focus is on blending modern dance with themes that resonate with today’s youth, such as self-expression, social issues, and innovation. I enjoy interacting with students, encouraging them to explore creativity, and making dance a fun, engaging experience. Yours sincerely, Ms. Kavita Rao</p>	5
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	Task: Analyse the information in a paragraph, justifying which guest artist would be a better choice. Consider factors such as experience, relevance to the audience, and the purpose of the cultural event.	
	OR	
5B	<p>Rohan, Class IX, is an intelligent and hardworking student who excels in logical reasoning and problem-solving. He enjoys teamwork but sometimes hesitates to take the lead. For the upcoming Science Exhibition, he needs to choose a partner from Neha, Kabir, and Sameer. Below are the profiles of the three candidates:</p> <p>Neha: Neha is highly creative and curious. She often comes up with innovative experiments and enjoys exploring new scientific ideas. However, she can be forgetful at times and may not always pay attention to small details.</p> <p>Kabir: Kabir is disciplined and systematic. He is good at research, record-keeping, and ensuring accuracy in every step of a project. However, he is not very confident while speaking in front of large groups.</p> <p>Sameer: Sameer is energetic and persuasive. He is an excellent speaker and can present ideas confidently. However, he sometimes avoids the hard work of research and prefers the presentation stage over the preparation.</p> <p>Task: Analyse the information in a paragraph, justifying which partner would be the best choice for Rohan. Consider factors such as creativity, organisation, presentation skills, and teamwork.</p>	5
	<p>SECTION-C LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 Marks)</p>	
6.	Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.	5
A.	<p>“It’s during the meal, as Lencho had predicted: big drops of rain began to fall. In the north-east huge mountains of cloud could be seen, and the air was fresh and sweet. The older boys were working in the field, while the smaller ones were playing near the house, until the woman called them all: ‘Come for dinner...’ In the very heart of the valley, the only thing the earth needed was a downpour or at least a shower and throughout the morning Lencho—who knew his fields intimately—had done nothing else but see the sky towards the northeast.”</p> <p>I. Justify with reference to the extract that Lencho’s belief in nature was both practical and emotional.</p> <p>II. Which of the following statement best reflects the deeper significance of the rain in Lencho’s life?</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1</p>

- a) The rain symbolised a divine blessing ensuring prosperity and security.
- b) The rain was an ordinary seasonal change with no special meaning.

III. What can be inferred about Lencho’s personality from his behaviour before and during the rain? Support your inference with textual evidence.

IV. Read the following words from the extract.

- i) Predicted
- ii) Downpour
- iii) Fresh
- iv) playing
- v) Sweet

Select the option that correctly categorises (i–v) into nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

Option	Noun	Verb	Adjectives
Option A:	i, iii	iv	ii, v
Option B	ii	i, iv	iii, v
Option C	ii	iv	i, iii, v
Option D:	i, ii	iii	iv, v

OR

B.

And suddenly Bholi noticed that the teacher was standing by her side, smiling at her. “What’s your name, little one?”
 “Bh-Bho-Bho-.” She could stammer no further than that. Then she began to cry and tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood. She kept her head down as she sat in her corner, not daring to look up at the girls who, she knew, were still laughing at her. When the school bell rang, all the girls scurried out of the classroom, but Bholi dared not leave her corner. Her head still lowered, she kept on sobbing.
 “Bholi.”
 The teacher’s voice was so soft and soothing! In all her life she had never been called like that. It touched her heart. (Bholi)

I. What is the tone the teacher is UNLIKELY to have used in the line, “What’s your name, little one?” **1**

- A. reassuring
- B. comforting
- C. settling
- D. calming

II. How does the author's use of Bholi 's perspective help build the narrative in the extract? **2**

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. The word ‘flood’ in the line ‘...tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood.’ Indicates that Bholi was crying _____ (uncontrollably / unintentionally). **1**

IV. How does the teacher's comforting demeanour contrast with the behaviour of the other girls in the classroom? **1**

8.	<p>Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each.</p> <p>I. How does Mandela’s emphasis on courage being the triumph over fear rather than the absence of it inspire individuals to face personal and social challenges?</p> <p>II. How does Valli’s sense of independence and curiosity reflect the importance of experiential learning in a child’s growth? (Madam Rides the Bus)</p> <p>III. Tea is described as both a popular beverage and an integral part of cultural identity. Support this statement with reference to two details from the chapter. ("Glimpses of India")</p> <p>V. How does the poet use contrast to highlight the tiger’s helplessness in captivity? (POEM- Tiger In the Cage)</p> <p>V. How does the poem use irony to bring out the difference between appearance and reality? (Poem – A Tale of Custard – The Dragon)</p>	<p>4x3 =12 3 3 3 3 3</p>
9.	<p>Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words each.</p> <p>I. How does the refusal to accept an unfair marriage proposal reflect the importance of confidence and self-respect in an individual’s life?</p> <p>II. In what way does the story of a grieving mother illustrate the universal truth of death and the path to overcoming sorrow?</p> <p>III. How does the act of returning stolen money highlight the power of trust and kindness in transforming human behaviour?</p>	<p>2x3 =6 3 3 3</p>
10.	<p>Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.</p> <p>A. The stories of human courage and faith in A Letter to God and The Black Aeroplane show that hope can guide people through difficult circumstances. Illustrate with reference to the stories.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. In what ways do the poems Fire and Ice and The Trees explore the destructive and restrictive forces in life, and how do they warn readers about the consequences of human behaviour?</p>	1x6
11.	<p>Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.</p> <p>A. Prove that ‘A Triumph of Surgery’ and ‘The Making of a Scientist’ highlight the role of careful observation, patience, and guidance in achieving.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. How do ‘The Footprints Without Feet’ and ‘The Book That Saved the Earth’ explore the consequences of misusing knowledge and power?</p>	1x6