

2025
18/2/25
E-08

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, CHENNAI REGION
II PRE-BOARD 2025-26
ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (CODE NO. 101)
CLASS-X

TIME: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them.

- i. This question paper has 12 questions. All are compulsory.
- ii. This question paper contains four sections:
 - Section A: Reading Skills
 - Section B: Writing Skills
 - Section C: Grammar
 - Section D: Literature Textbook
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/ part, wherever necessary.
- v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A: READING (22 MARKS)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

12

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is often viewed with anxiety, as many people fear that machines will replace human workers and reduce employment opportunities. However, a deeper and more balanced understanding reveals that AI is far more likely to boost jobs rather than replace them, by transforming the nature of work, creating new roles, and enhancing human productivity. Historically, every major technological revolution—from the steam engine to computers—initially triggered job-related fears but ultimately generated more employment by opening new industries and improving efficiency.
2. AI follows the same pattern. Instead of eliminating work, it automates repetitive, time-consuming, and low-value tasks, allowing humans to focus on creativity, decision-making, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving—skills that machines cannot replicate. For example, in sectors like healthcare, AI assists doctors by analysing medical data, improving diagnostic accuracy, and managing patient records, but it does not replace doctors or nurses. Rather, it enables them to provide better and more personalized care.
3. Similarly, in education, AI-powered tools support teachers through personalized learning analytics and administrative assistance, freeing educators to focus on mentoring, critical thinking, and student engagement. AI is also a powerful engine for job creation. New roles such as AI trainers, data analysts, machine learning specialists, ethics officers, and cybersecurity experts have emerged, none of which existed a few decades ago.
4. Even traditional industries like agriculture, manufacturing, and retail are witnessing job transformation rather than job loss, as workers are upskilled to operate AI-driven tools, smart machines, and digital platforms. Small businesses and startups further benefit from AI by gaining access to tools that improve marketing, customer service, and logistics, thereby increasing competitiveness and employment opportunities.

5. Importantly, AI promotes inclusivity and productivity by assisting people with disabilities through voice recognition, automation, and adaptive technologies, enabling more individuals to join the workforce.

6. While it is true that some jobs may change or decline, the solution lies not in resisting AI but in preparing the workforce through education, skill development, and lifelong learning. Governments, institutions, and industries play a crucial role in reskilling workers, ensuring that AI growth is inclusive and ethical.

7. When guided responsibly, AI becomes a collaborator rather than a competitor, amplifying human potential instead of diminishing it. Thus, the future of work is not a world dominated by machines, but a partnership where humans and AI work together, leading to innovation, economic growth, and improved quality of life. In this way, AI emerges not as a job destroyer, but as a powerful catalyst for job creation and meaningful employment in the modern era.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. Why does the writer say that AI is often viewed with anxiety? (Paragraph 1) 1

- A. Because AI completely eliminates the need for skills
- B. Because people fear that machines will take over human jobs
- C. Because AI is too expensive for governments
- D. Because AI slows down industrial growth

II. Complete the following sentence with the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1
(Paragraph 1)

The comparison with earlier technological revolutions shows that AI is expected to _____ employment in the long run. (destroy / temporarily reduce / ultimately increase)

III. Give two ways in which AI helps professionals perform better instead of replacing them. 2
(Paragraph 2)

IV. What does the writer mean by the phrase “powerful engine for job creation”? (Paragraph 3) 1
Select the correct option.

It means that AI _____.
A. works like heavy machinery
B. generates many new job opportunities
C. increases unemployment rapidly
D. replaces traditional industries

V. Complete the following sentence with the appropriate option. (Paragraph 3) 1
The emergence of roles such as AI trainers and ethics officers shows that AI has led to the creation of _____.

- A. outdated professions
- B. short-term jobs
- C. entirely new career paths
- D. unskilled labour

VI. Which of the following would be the most suitable title for Paragraph 2? 1

- A. Machines Take Control
- B. Human Skills vs Artificial Intelligence
- C. AI as a Support System
- D. The End of Traditional Jobs

Which word from Paragraph 5 indicates that AI helps include more people in the workforce?

1

VIII. How does AI promote inclusivity in employment? (Paragraph 5)

2

IX. Why does the writer stress the role of education and skill development in the context of AI? (Paragraph 6)

2

2. Read the following telephonic conversation.

10

Riya: Good evening, Aman. I hope I'm not calling at an inconvenient hour.

Aman: Not at all, Riya. In fact, your call is quite timely. I'm working on a brief address for the school assembly on *National Integration*, and I find myself reflecting deeply on the theme.

Riya: That is indeed a thought-provoking subject, especially in the Indian context. Ours is a nation marked by extraordinary plurality—linguistic, religious, cultural, and regional—yet bound together by a shared civilisational ethos.

Aman: Precisely. National integration in India is not about uniformity; rather, it is about harmonising diversity while preserving distinct identities. This delicate balance defines the spirit of our Constitution.

Riya: I couldn't agree more. When one examines our history, particularly the freedom movement, it becomes evident that national unity was forged through collective struggle. Leaders from varied backgrounds transcended personal and sectional interests for the larger national cause.

Aman: Indeed. That legacy places a moral obligation upon present generations to safeguard social cohesion. Unfortunately, divisive tendencies sometimes threaten this unity, making integration an ongoing process rather than an achieved goal.

Riya: Education plays a crucial role here. An informed citizenry, aware of constitutional values such as secularism, equality, and fraternity, is better equipped to resist prejudice and intolerance.

Aman: Additionally, cultural interaction fosters empathy. Participation in one another's festivals, appreciation of regional art forms, and respect for linguistic diversity help dismantle stereotypes and build mutual trust.

Riya: I also believe that the responsible use of digital platforms can strengthen national integration. Narratives highlighting solidarity and shared humanity can counteract polarising rhetoric.

Aman: Absolutely. However, integration cannot be sustained without individual accountability. Respect for the rule of law, rejection of discrimination, and commitment to democratic ideals are essential duties of every citizen.

Riya: Well-articulated, Aman. National integration, after all, is not an abstract concept but a lived practice reflected in everyday conduct.

Aman: Your insights have been immensely valuable, Riya. They will certainly enrich my address. Thank you for the enlightening exchange.

Riya: It was a pleasure, as always. Best wishes for your assembly speech.

Aman: Thank you. Jai Hind!

Riya: Jai Hind!

Answer the following questions, based on your reading of the telephonic conversation above.

I. Why would "National Integration: Harmonising Diversity in India" be a more suitable title for the conversation than "A Casual Phone Call"? (Answer in one sentence.)

1

II. Fill in the blank choosing the correct option from those given.

1

India is described as a nation marked by extraordinary _____ yet united by a shared ethos.

- A. cultural plurality
- B. political rigidity

C. economic uniformity
D. geographical isolation

III. Which of the following statements is true according to the conversation? 1

A. National integration demands the elimination of cultural differences.
B. Unity in India has been historically shaped by collective struggle.
C. The Constitution discourages diversity in society.
D. Integration in India has already been completely achieved.

IV. Identify two factors mentioned in the conversation that strengthen national integration. 1

V. Complete the following sentence. (Write one point.) 1

Education helps promote national integration by _____.

VI. Choose the option closest in meaning to the word 'polarising'. 1

A. encouraging cooperation
B. creating harmony
C. creating divisions and hostility
D. improving understanding

VII. Infer from the conversation why national integration is described as "an ongoing process rather than an achieved goal." Answer in about 30–40 words. 2

VIII. How do individual citizens contribute to strengthening national integration, according to the conversation? Answer in about 30–40 words. 2

SECTION B: WRITING SKILL (22 marks)

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, to the Principal of your school requesting the organization of a health check-up and medical awareness camp for students. Give one valid reason for your request. You are Rahul / Radhika, a student of Class X in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai.

1x3=3

4. Write a factual description of a project developed by you/your team as part of the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, in not more than 100 words, highlighting its aim, design, features, and usefulness. **1x4=4**

5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 words. **1x7=7**

A. The rapid rise in environmental pollution, climate change, and indiscriminate use of natural resources has significantly affected life on Earth. While development is essential, a lack of environmental responsibility poses serious threats to sustainable living.

As Nikita / Nikhil, a resident of 45, Green Park, T Nagar, Chennai, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing your concern about environmental degradation. Suggest practical measures to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

Use ideas from the MCB unit "Environment", along with your own ideas, to write this letter.

OR

B. India has made significant progress in the field of education in recent years. However, challenges such as rote learning, exam-centric approaches, unequal access to quality education,

Adequate focus on skill development continue to affect students' holistic growth. There is urgent need to reform educational practices to make learning more inclusive, experiential, and value-based.

As Ananya / Ashwin of 18, Gandhi Nagar, Chennai, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing your views on the current education system. Suggest effective ways to improve the quality of school education and promote holistic learning.

Use ideas from the MCB unit "Education", along with your own ideas, to write this letter.

6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 150 words.

1x8=8

A. The world is increasingly shifting towards cleaner and more sustainable modes of transportation to combat pollution and climate change. In this context, electric vehicles have emerged as a promising alternative to conventional fuel-driven vehicles.

As Kavita / Kavin of Class X C, write an article for your school magazine on 'Electric Vehicles: A Promise for the Future'.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and ideas from the MCB Unit 'On Science'.

- ❖ Meaning and basic idea of electric vehicles
- ❖ Need for alternative fuel-based transportation
- ❖ Role of electric vehicles in reducing air pollution
- ❖ Contribution to combating climate change
- ❖ Conserving fossil fuels and natural resources
- ❖ Cost efficiency and long-term economic benefits
- ❖ Technological advancements in battery and charging systems
- ❖ Government initiatives and growing public awareness
- ❖ Challenges: high initial cost, charging infrastructure, and range anxiety
- ❖ Need for sustainable infrastructure and policy support
- ❖ Role of science and technology in shaping eco-friendly transport
- ❖ Electric vehicles as a step towards a greener and cleaner future

OR

B. Write an article, in about 150 words, as Malini / Mahesh of Class X C, on the topic "Mental Health: An Essential Aspect of Overall Well-being", emphasising its importance in today's fast-paced life.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and those from the MCB unit "Health and Medicine."

- Meaning of mental health and emotional well-being
- Growing stress and pressure among students and youth
- Impact of poor mental health on studies, relationships, and daily life
- Importance of self-care, rest, and balanced routines
- Role of family, school, and peer support
- Breaking stigma around mental health issues
- Professional help — counsellors, psychologists, helplines
- Healthy coping strategies — meditation, exercise, hobbies
- Mental health awareness programmes in schools and communities
- Caring for mental health to build a healthy and compassionate society

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. Fill in the blanks (i)- (iii) with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets.

By (i) _____ (combining/ combine/ combined) modern infrastructure, digital promotion, cultural pride, sustainability, safety, and community participation, India can (ii) _____ (attracting/ attract/ attracted) more domestic and international tourists. Tourism not only (iii) _____ (showcases/ showcased/ had showcased) India's rich heritage but also boosts employment and economic growth.

8. **One word** has been omitted in each line of the following paragraph. Write the missing word **along with the words that come before and after**, in your answer sheet. The first one has been done as an example.

4x1=4

No.	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
e.g	Amy is a versatile professional expertise	professional	with	expertise
I	in journalism, academia philanthropy consulting.			
II	She is currently postdoctoral fellow at			
III	Dartmouth College the Society of Fellows.			
IV	She previously held fellowships Stanford University and Bard College.			

9. Do as directed.

1+2=3

I. Rearrange the following jumbled words/ phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence.

1

Emma: Do you think virtual museums are a good idea?

Jake: Yes, they make art more accessible.

Emma: although they lack/ the physical experience / I think / a broader audience / virtual museums / reach / can / that

II. Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph.

2

Aisha: What time does the library open on weekends?

Lia: It opens at 10 AM on Saturdays and Sundays.

Aisha asked Lia (i) _____. Lia replied that (ii) _____.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)

10. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for **any two** excerpts, of the three given below.

2x4=8

A. She was eager to do so. They were, she explained, quite alone in the world, except for the sister, Lucia. Their father, a widower, a well-known singer, had been killed in the early part of the war. Shortly afterwards a bomb had destroyed their home and thrown the three children into the streets. They had always known a comfortable and cultured life --- Lucia had herself been training as a singer --- and they had suffered horribly from near starvation and exposure to the cold winter

(Two Gentlemen of Verona)

What does the speaker mean when she says that they were “quite alone in the world”? 1
 I. Identify the two tragic events that caused the children to be homeless? 1
 III. How does the extract contrast the children’s past life with their present condition? 1
 IV. What do Lucia’s earlier ambitions reveal about the family’s background before the war? 1

B. He lifted his head from his drinking, as cattle do,
 And looked at me vaguely, as drinking cattle do,
 And flickered his two-forked tongue from his lips, and mused a moment,
 And stooped and drank a little more,
 Being earth-brown, earth-golden from the burning bowels of the earth
 On the day of Sicilian July, with Etna smoking. *(Snake)*

I. How does the poet describe the snake’s movement and behaviour while drinking at the water trough? 1
 II. What attitude of the poet towards the snake is reflected through the description “as cattle do”? 1
 III. Identify the poetic device used in ‘the burning bowels of the earth’. 1
 IV. What does the reference to “Sicilian July, with Etna smoking” suggest about the setting of the poem? 1

C. ABEL: Aye, you both say that because of what I’ve told you about leaving my money. Well, since you don’t want me, I’ll go to someone who does.

BEN: Come Mr. Merryweather, you’ve got to live with one of your daughters.

ABEL: I’ll tell you what I’ve got to do. On Monday next I’ve got to do three things. I’ve got to go to the lawyer’s and alter my will; and I’ve got to go to the insurance office and pay my premium; and I’ve got to go to St. Philip’s Church and get married.

(The Dear Departed)

I. What does Abel Merryweather accuse his daughters of in this extract? 1
 II. How does the extract reveal the daughters’ true attitude towards their father? 1
 III. Why does Abel decide to alter his will and pay his insurance premium? 1
 IV. What does Abel’s decision to get married suggest about his character and state of mind? 1

11. Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each. 5x2=10

I. Infer how Ali’s suffering transforms the Postmaster’s attitude from apathy to empathy. 2
 (The Letter)

II. Analyse how humour is used to balance the supernatural elements in A Shady Plot. 2

III. Evaluate Patol Babu’s decision to leave the shooting spot without collecting his payment. 2
 (Patol Babu, Film Star)

IV. Analyse the Frog’s role as a symbolic representation of exploitative authority. (The Frog and the Nightingale) 2

V. Validate the poet’s claim that poetry is more enduring than physical monuments. (Not Marbles, Nor the Gilded Monuments) 2

VI. Justify the Mariner’s lifelong compulsion to retell his story as a moral necessity. (The Rime of the Ancient Mariner) 2

12. Answer **any one** of the following questions in about 150 words.

1x8=8

I. Compare how jealousy influences the actions of Mrs. Packletide in Mrs. Packletide's Tiger and Cassius in Julius Caesar. How does jealousy shape their decisions and what impact does it have on the events and outcomes in each story?

OR

II. The story Virtually True has elements of virtual reality and advanced technology that contrast with the traditional ghostly occurrences in A Shady Plot. How do these contrasting themes and narrative styles contribute to the overall tone and meaning of each story?
