

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, CHENNAI REGION
2nd PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2025-26
ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (Code No. 101)

CLASS X

Time allowed : 3 hrs.

Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them.

i. This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.

ii. This question paper contains four sections:

Section A : Reading Skills

Section B : Writing Skills

Section C : Grammar

Section D : Literature

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 SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Read the passage carefully :

12

Away from the din

1 The sleek pair of earphones on a traveller's ears is not just about music; it's about technology's clever promise, delivering only what we want to hear and filtering out everything else. Various companies have perfected this art of noise cancellation, filtering out unwanted sounds so the listener can enjoy pure music. But pause for a moment and ask if life itself is not in desperate need of this feature? Noise cancellation! Every day, we spend a surprising amount of mental energy not on productive work or joyful moments but on distractions that creep into our thoughts.

2 There is a noise we carry with us. Many bring stress from the office into their homes, and take their domestic frustrations to the workplace. This leakage of mood from one space into another magnifies unhappiness, creating a cycle of irritation that never really ends. Without boundaries, we allow professional pressures to invade personal life, and small family tensions to disrupt our work.

Digital noise

3 Adding to all these is the constant blitz of digital noise. Social media feeds, biased opinions, outrage and addictive content on weight loss, crypto money, healthcare, these toxic ingredients are consumed everyday. The more we feed on these toxins, the more our minds become restless and unhealthy. Slowly, they distort our thought process altogether, making it harder to focus on what truly matters.

4 This is the “noise” of daily living. And just as audio pioneers designed circuits to cancel out noise, we too can train our minds to cancel out these mental interferences. Imagine filtering before they creep into us, by accepting small delays, ignoring careless remarks, avoiding comparisons, digital toxins to dictate our state of mind.

5 Noise cancellation in life doesn’t mean indifference or isolation from society. It means clarity. It means choosing not to hand over the control of our emotions to outside events. When we learn to filter distractions, we save our energy for what truly matters. By practising selective attention and conscious detachment, we can develop the art of cancelling life’s noise. Noise cancellation may be the greatest life skill we can learn to live authentically.

- Adapted from The Hindu (Science -article October 05,2025)

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

I Why does the writer compare noise-cancelling earphones with life itself ? 1

- a) Because life is full of unwanted sounds
- b) Because like earphones, we can learn to filter unwanted distractions
- c) Because music helps us think better.
- d) Because technology controls human emotions. (Paragraph 1)

II Complete the following with the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1

The word "blitz" in the line "Adding to all these is the constant blitz..." indicates -----
----- .

- (a quiet, slow buildup / a sudden, intense burst of activity / a calm, peaceful flow)
(Paragraph 3)

III Give two reasons why the author believes life needs ‘noise cancellation’. Answer in 30-40 words. 2

IV What does the author mean by saying noise cancellation doesn’t mean isolation ? 2
(Paragraph 5)

V The “leakage of mood” mentioned in the passage enhances _____ 1

Select the correct option to complete the answer.

- a) happiness
- b) confusion
- c) irritation and unhappiness
- d) optimism (Paragraph 2)

VI What would be another suitable title for the passage? 1

- a) Filtering the Noise Within
- b) The Power of Headphones
- c) Music and the Mind
- d) Technology in Everyday Life

VII Which phrase from paragraph 3 bears evidence of the following statement -

Constant exposure to digital content makes our thinking unhealthy. 1

VIII Fill in the blank by choosing the appropriate option from those given in the brackets . 1

The tone of the last paragraph is best described as

(authoritative and instructive / encouraging and hopeful/skeptical and dismissive)

IX How can the idea of “noise cancellation” be applied in your own life as a student? 2

2. Read the following : 10

Honnavar

Looking for a quaint holiday destination away from the hustle and bustle of a mainstream location, then Honnavar is the answer. A scenic small town in Uttara Kannada with the Arabian Sea on one side and the Western Ghats on the other is often ignored by travellers travelling to Murudeshwara, Gokarna, or Karwar. Easily accessible from Bangalore, Mangalore, Goa, and Shimoga, Honnavar is known for its suspension bridges, waterfalls, coastal cuisine, hiking trails, mangrove forests, and much more. Honnavar, the port town is famous for its picturesque landscapes and many islands formed by the amalgamation of River Sharavathi with the Arabian Sea.

Apsarakonda

A very scenic, popular, and visited destination in Honnavar is the Apsarakonda. As the name says, it is a place that means ‘Pond of Angels’ and is a village famous for its lake and waterfalls. The stunning panoramic landscape of nature at its best, Apsarakonda is just 7 km away from the Honnavar city center. Expect the mesmerizing divine and gorgeous sunset peeping out of a hill and the beach making it unbelievable. This heaven on earth also has some exciting caves known as Pandavas caves.

The serene and pristine Apsarakonda beach also has some ancient and worth-visiting temples like Maha Ganapati temple and Ugra Narasimha temple. The melodious chirping of birds in the lush green forests and the gushing waterfalls will make you spend the quality time you have always been looking for.

Eco Beach

Just 20 km away from the famous Murudeshwara Temple, Eco Beach is one of the “Blue Flag” certified beaches in India. Earlier known as Kasargod Beach, Eco beach is one of the most virgin, pristine and serene beaches in the whole coastal belt. The 5 km long Eco Beach is more of a picnic spot with an eco-friendly twist catering to families, women travellers, and all those who want to have some quality time in the tranquillity of nature. Jointly developed by the Kasargod village Forest Committee and the forest & Tourism department, Eco Beach is one of the favourite picnic spots among kids. The aim to develop such a beach is to promote and create awareness about eco-tourism and bring in more and more tourists to the area. The kids can enjoy various activities like a jungle gym, swings, play area, eating joints, and refreshments apart from playing on the beach and sand shores.

Source : www.tourism.karnatka.gov.in.

Answer the following questions based on your reading of the above information.

I Which of the following taglines best captures the essence of the passage on *Honnavar*? 1

- a) Honnavar – A Land of Temples and Towers
- b) Honnavar – The City That Never Sleeps
- c) Honnavar – A Hidden Paradise Between the Ghats and the Sea
- d) Honnavar – The Industrial Hub of Karnataka

II Complete the following with the correct option. 1

The term '*pristine*' in the passage refers to something that is _____.

- a) Modern and urban
- b) Pure and untouched
- c) Dark and mysterious
- d) Dangerous and wild

III State which of the following is true about Honnavar: 1

- a) It is a crowded and noisy tourist hub.
- b) It lies between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal.
- c) It is a peaceful coastal town between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea.
- d) It is located near Bengaluru city.

IV How does Apsarakonda reflect the culture and heritage of Karnataka? 2

V What might be the most likely reason that Eco Beach is called “eco-friendly”? 1

- a) It prohibits plastic use and promotes environmental cleanliness.
- b) It has eco lodges only.
- c) It is not accessible to vehicles.
- d) It bans swimming.

VI Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1

Apsarakonda, as the name says, is a place that means “.....”(The Garden of Gods/The Cave of Light/ The Pond of Angels) and is a village famous for its lake and waterfalls.

VII State the reason that best explains why travellers overlook Honnavar? 1

- a) Lack of transport facilities
- b) Its proximity to more popular destinations like Gokarna and Murudeshwar
- c) High accommodation costs
- d) Safety concerns

VIII Pen down the moral values about nature that tourists learn from visiting places like Apsarakonda . 2

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

3. You are Geeta/ Gaurav of class X-A. Write an application to the Principal of the school requesting him/her to provide closed dustbins in the school classrooms. Give valid reasons. 1x3=3

4. Write a factual description of your favourite electronic appliance commonly used at your home in not more than 100 words, highlighting its key features and functionalities. 1x4=4

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

A. The education system today lacks real-life skill development, leaving students academically strong but practically unprepared. As a concerned student, write a letter to the Editor of The Hindu, Chennai, emphasizing the urgent need for skill-oriented education in schools. Mention the types of skills required and propose steps for improvement.

Use your own ideas along with those from the Unit 2 : Education, to write the letter.

OR

B. You are Garima/Gaurav. You recently went on a tour and visited important tourist places of India during vacation. You found that India offers a great scope for tourism. There is unity in diversity which offers so much in the form of historical sights, geographical diversities, climatic differences as nature's gifts. Taking ideas from the Unit 5 : Travel and Tourism, together with your own ideas, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the country as the best tourists' destination and appealing to the people to be friendly and courteous with the foreigners as tourism is a source of earning foreign currency.

6. Attempt any one of the two (A) or (B) in 150 words. 1x8=8

A. You are Sunil/Sunita of Class X. Recently, your school attended a counselling session on the rising stress, anxiety, and emotional pressure faced by students. Write an article for your school magazine on "*The Importance of Mental Health in Teenagers.*" You may use your own ideas as well as clues given below from the session and your reading of MCB Unit 1 : Health and Medicine.

Causes of Mental Stress : Academic pressure, Peer pressure, Social media influence, Family issues, expectations, conflicts, Overuse of screens and gadgets, Bullying or cyber bullying etc.

Effects on Teenagers : Anxiety, stress, depression, Lack of sleep, restlessness, Irritability, anger, mood swings, Poor concentration in studies, Loss of confidence or motivation, Social withdrawal, isolation

Importance of Mental Health: Equally important as physical health, Affects behaviour, emotions, and decision-making, Essential for academic success and personal growth, Builds healthy relationships, Helps teenagers handle challenges

Ways to Improve Mental Health: Talk openly to parents, teachers, friends, Practise yoga, meditation, deep breathing, Maintain a healthy sleep schedule etc.

Role of Schools & Parents: Schools should provide counselling support, awareness sessions and mental well-being workshops, parents must avoid unrealistic expectations, encourage open communication, provide emotional support and understanding

Mental health means strong, balanced mind, Teenagers need a safe, stress-free environment, Collective responsibility to support them, Healthy mind will result in productive, happy future.

B. You are Ankit/Ankita of class X. You read the news item given below and decided to write an article for the school magazine on the topic “Sustainable development is crucial for India’s future”. You may use your own ideas and your reading of MCB Unit 4 : Environment.

New Delhi, 18 July 20XX:

A new environmental report warns that India is facing rising pollution, water scarcity, and rapid loss of green cover due to uncontrolled development. Experts stress that only sustainable development—balancing growth with environmental protection—can secure India’s future. The government has urged citizens, especially students, to conserve resources and adopt eco-friendly practices.

SECTION C : GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. Fill in the blanks (i)-(iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. 3x1=3

Our sun and (i)..... (their/its/it’s/these) planets, including earth (ii).....(come/coming/came/will come) into existence at the same time and from a common source. Evidence (iii)(suggests/suggested/suggest/suggesting) that the solar system was formed about 5 billion years ago. It is thought to have arisen from a spinning cloud of cosmic dust and gas termed solar nebula.

8. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. 4x1=4

In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example.

S.No.	Text	Word Before	Omission	Word After
E.g.	Diwali this year indeed quieter	year	was	indeed
I	and cleaner. Whether it because of			
II	expensive firecrackers this year or other			
III	cause, the air less polluted.			
IV	Air and noise pollution levels Diwali			
	day dropped much over parts of the city.			

9. Do as directed : 1+2 =3

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

Tourist: Excuse me, could you tell me how to reach the museum?

Local: (i) right / turn / at / the / traffic / signal/ straight/go/and/,/yes

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

Anita : What do you want to do this morning?

Prakash : I feel like taking a walk. It's so nice outside.

Anita : Great,let's walk around the lake in the park.

Anita asked Prakash (i) Prakash answered that he (ii) It was so nice outside. Anita agreed to this and suggested to walk around the lake in the park.

SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 MARKS)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly for any two extracts of the three given below.

2x4=8

A. 'It didn't make sense at all. I stared out of the train window and ran through the events in my head. It all started a month ago. Dad and I had spent the entire Saturday afternoon at the computer fair. Dad's nutty about computers.'

(Virtually True)

I What is the mood of the speaker in the above extract?

II 'Dad and I had spent the entire Saturday afternoon at the Computer Fair.' What does this statement suggest?

III How is Micheal's visit to the computer fair an important episode in the story?

IV Which of the following sentences uses the word *nutty* in the same sense as in the extract?

- a) My uncle is nutty about gardening; he spends all his weekends among plants.
- b) The soup tasted nutty because it had almonds in it.
- c) Don't talk to him; he's gone completely nutty after the loss.
- d) She made a nutty mistake in her maths exam.

B. When wasteful war shall statues overturn,
And broils root the work of masonry,
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn
The living record of your memory.

(Not Marble Nor The Gilded Monuments)

I What attributes of war are referred to here ?

II What will be the living record of the poet's friend?

III How has allusion been used in these lines?

IV Which of the following sentences uses the word "**root**" in the same sense as in the extract?

- a) The farmer will root the weeds out of his garden.
- b) The plant has deep roots in the soil.
- c) She is rooted to the spot in fear.
- d) Our traditions are deeply rooted in our culture.

C. “Elizabeth’s that sharp she’ll see I’m after it and she’ll drive a hard bargain over it. Eh, what it is to have a low money-grubbing spirit?”
(The Dear Departed)

I What aspect of Elizabeth’s character is revealed here?

II What bargain is being discussed here?

III Explain the term, ‘low money-grubbing spirit’.

IV What do the above remarks reflect about the speaker’s attitude and nature?

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

I Justify the title ‘Two Gentlemen of Verona’?
(Two Gentlemen of Verona)

II The story, “Mrs. Packletide’s tiger ends with an ironic twist showcasing the futility of Mrs. Packletide’s vain pursuit. Explain.
(Mrs. Packletide’s Tiger)

III Examine the cause of bewilderment in the reaction of the postmaster when he gets to know about Ali from Lakshmi Das.
(The Letter)

IV The character of Patol Babu draws respect from time to time. He is an inspiration. What are the values that draw the reader towards him?
(Patol Babu, Film Star)

V “The Nightingale was responsible for her own fate.” Elucidate.
(The Frog and the Nightingale)

VI How can the poem, ‘Ozymandias’ be viewed as a commentary on the frailty of human accomplishments?
(Ozymandias)

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. 1x8=8

I ‘Supernatural elements often reveal more about humans than about the supernatural itself.’
Do you agree? Based on your reading of *Julius Caesar* and *A Shady Plot*, explain how the supernatural exposes human weaknesses like ambition, fear, selfishness, carelessness, and insensitivity. What moral lessons do we learn from the behaviour of the characters?

OR

II Both poems, ‘Not Marble Nor the Gilded Monuments’ and ‘Snake’ reflect timeless truths — one about art’s immortality and the other about moral awareness. Compare how Shakespeare and Lawrence express the permanence of inner truth.
